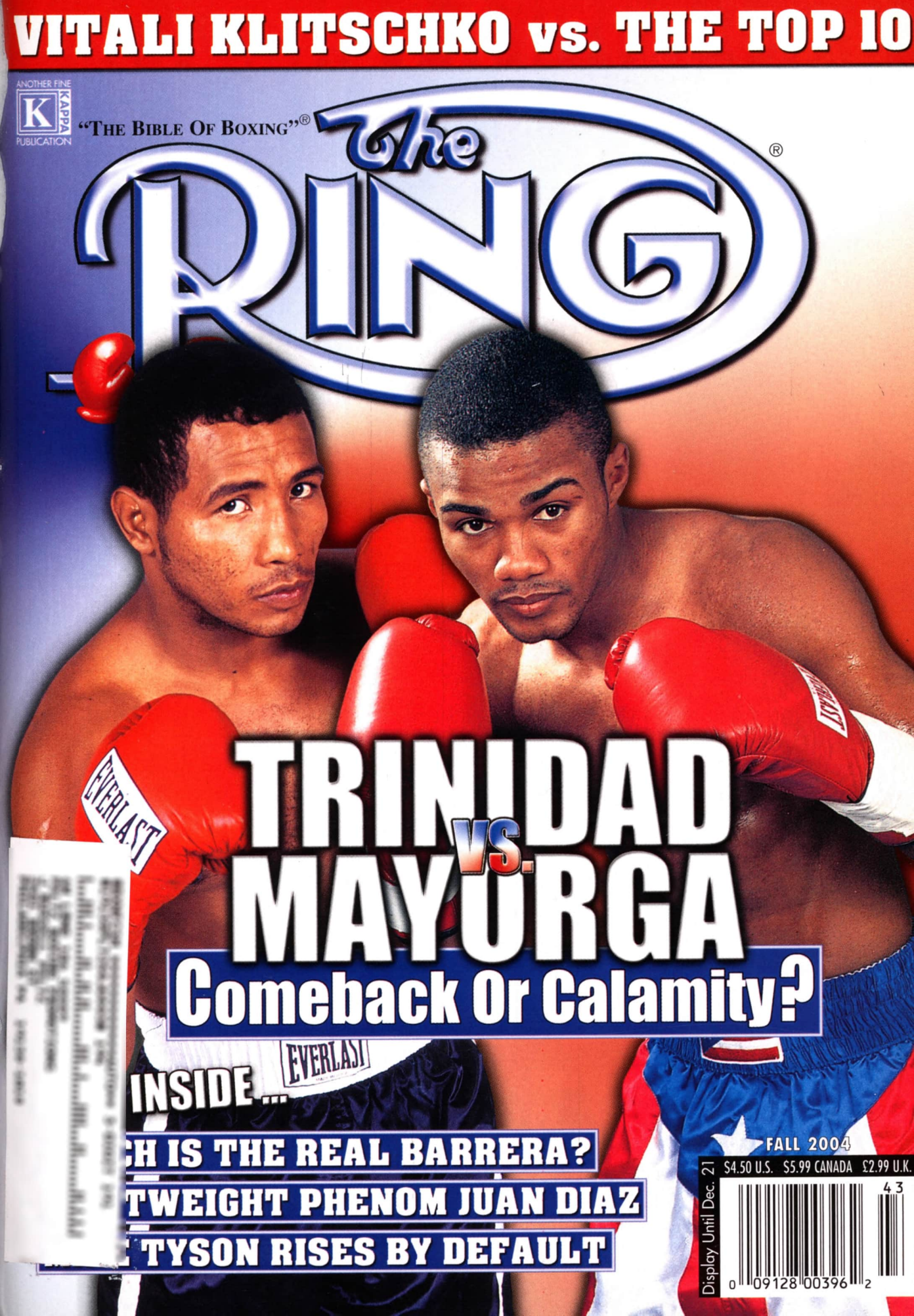
VITALI KLITSCHKO vs. THE TOP 10

ANOTHER FINE K KAPPA PUBLICATION

"THE BIBLE OF BOXING"®

The RING®



TRINIDAD VS. MAYORGA

Comeback Or Calamity?

INSIDE ...

CH IS THE REAL BARRERA?

TWEIGHT PHENOM JUAN DIAZ

TYSON RISES BY DEFAULT

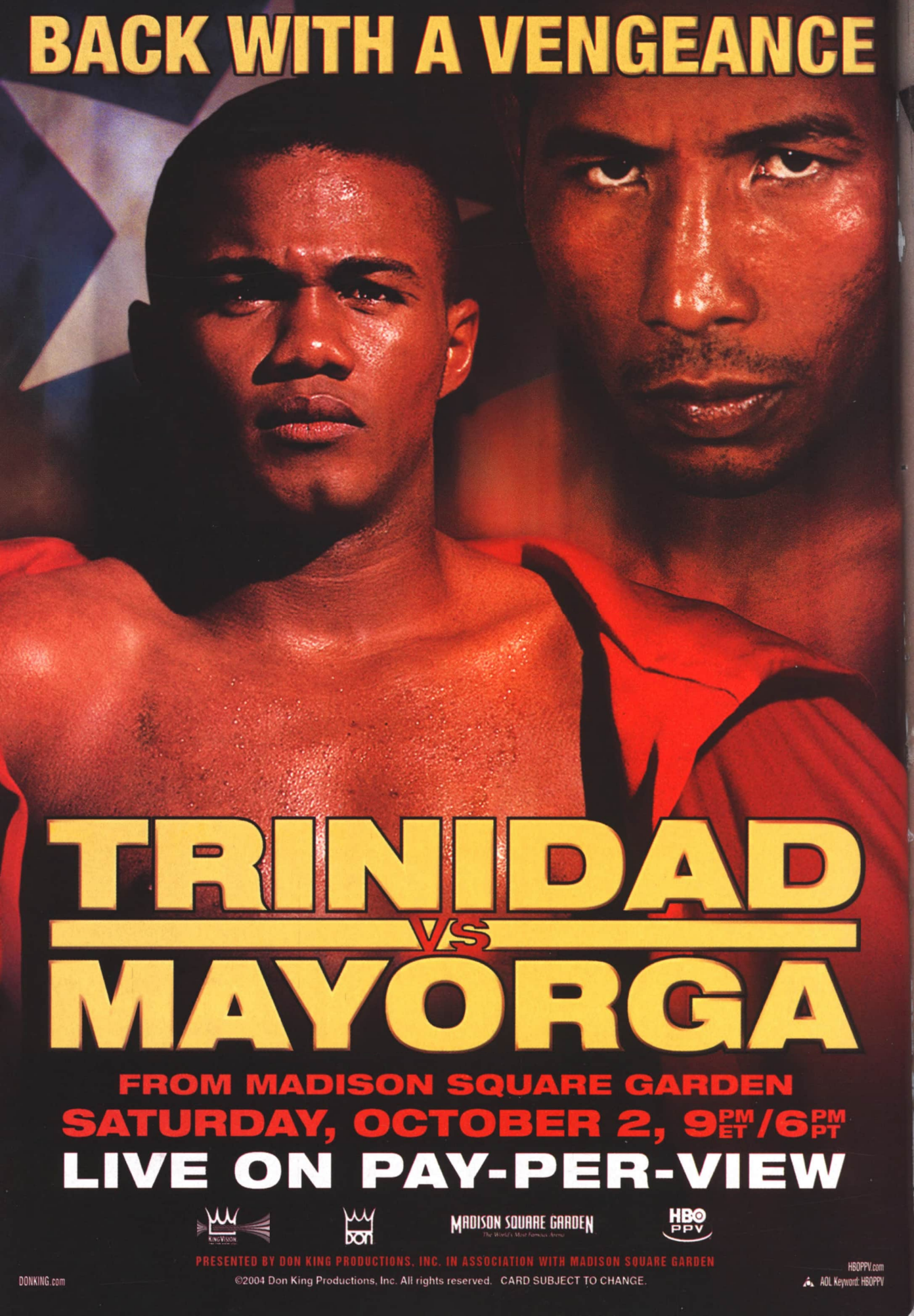
FALL 2004

$4.50 U.S. $5.99 CANADA £2.99 U.K.

Display Until Dec. 21

43

0 09128 00396 2

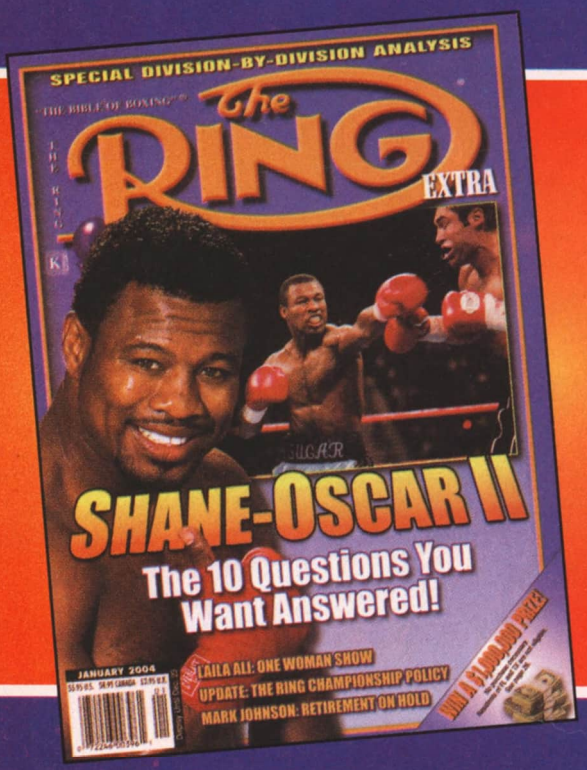

BACK WITH A VENGEANCE
TRINIDAD
VS
MAYORGA
FROM MADISON SQUARE GARDEN
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 9PM ET/6PM PT
LIVE ON PAY-PER-VIEW
KINGVISION
DON
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN
The World's Most Famous Arena
HBO PPV
PRESENTED BY DON KING PRODUCTIONS, INC. IN ASSOCIATION WITH MADISON SQUARE GARDEN
DONKING.com
©2004 Don King Productions, Inc. All rights reserved. CARD SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
HBOPPV.com
AOL Keyword: HBOPPV

©/TM 2004 Jack Dempsey, Rocky Marciano, Floyd Patterson, Joe Louis, Ray Robinson Properties & Licensing by CMG Worldwide, www.CMGWorldwide.com

SUBSCRIBE TO THE RING

AND $19 IS YOURS TO KEEP!

That's just about what you'll save when you subscribe to THE RING for a year!



Each issue of THE RING contains the best in worldwide boxing coverage with the most dynamic ringside photography ... Columns by the most renowned boxing journalists ... The most respected ratings in the business ... A dip into our vast archives with The Ring Classic ... New Faces ... Camera Clicks.

THERE'S MORE!

Alternating with THE RING every other month is the 100-page RING EXTRA. It's THE RING—and then some!

SAVE ALMOST $19.00!

Convenience. Savings. Service. What better reasons than those to subscribe to THE RING? With 80 years behind us, THE RING long ago earned the distinction "The Bible Of Boxing." Now is the perfect time to take advantage of this tremendous offer.

Send To: **London Publishing Co.**, P.O. Box 2085, Marion, OH 43306-8185

THREE WAYS TO SAVE!

Please Check Off The One You Wish To Order:

☐ THE RING (6 issues) for $19.00. That's a savings of nearly $5.00! LRNZ

☐ THE RING EXTRA (6 issues) for $28.50. That's a savings of more than $7.00! LRSP

Save $19.00!

☐ All 12 issues of THE RING for $41.00. LRNG

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA # _____

☐ MasterCard # _____
Expiration Date: ___/___
MO/YR

Signature: _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ APT. _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

☐ New Subscription ☐ Renewal

FOR CANADA AND ALL OTHER COUNTRIES: $23.80 FOR THE RING ($34.00 AIRMAIL); $33.30 FOR THE RING EXTRA ($43.50 AIRMAIL); $50.60 FOR THE COMBINATION ($71.00 AIRMAIL). INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDERS ONLY IN U.S. FUNDS ONLY. PLEASE ALLOW UP TO EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE YOU RECEIVE YOUR FIRST MAGAZINE. OFFER EXPIRES JANUARY 31, 2005.

A0804R

CONTENTS

Fall 2004

page 28

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

FEATURES

22 **TRINIDAD vs. MAYORGA: COMEBACK OR CALAMITY?**
20 Experts Analyze "Tito's" Return To The Ring
Compiled by Joe Santoliquito

28 **VITALI KLITSCHKO vs. THE TOP 10**
Is There Anyone Who Can Dethrone The New Champ?
By William Dettloff

34 **WHICH IS THE REAL BARRERA?**
Is He As Bad As He Looked Against Pac-Man Or As Good As He Looked Against Ayala?
By Ivan Goldman

38 **LIGHTWEIGHT PHENOM JUAN DIAZ**
A Far Cry From Where He Was Three Years Ago
By Don Stradley

44 **THE RING REMEMBERS JIMMY CLABBY**
A Good Guy Who Got Some "Bad" Advice
By Pete Ehrmann

page 38

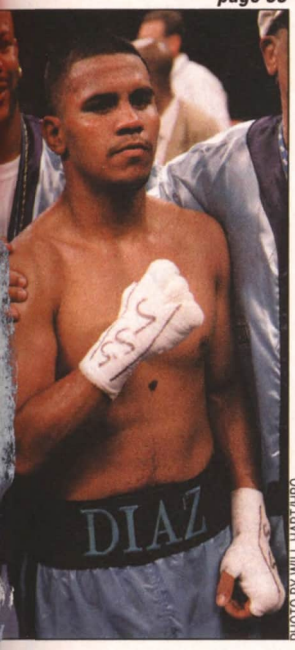


PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Ringside Reports And Analyses

50 **FIGHTER OF THE MONTH & RINGSIDE REPORTS**

Ratings

13 **RATINGS ANALYSIS**

14 **THE RING'S INTERNATIONAL RATINGS AND RECORDS**

DEPARTMENTS

6 **RINGSIDE,** *by Nigel Collins*

8 **ROUND ONE**

16 **RYAN OUT LOUD,** *by Jeff Ryan*

18 **CAMERA CLICKS**

20 **NEW FACES: Middleweight Joey Gilbert,** *by Mike Houser*

48 **WORLDWIDE FIGHT RESULTS**

58 **THE RING CLASSIC: JUNIOR FEATHER CHAMP PAUL BANKE,** *by Jeff Ryan*

64 **COME OUT WRITING**

66 **LOOKING AHEAD,** *by Eric Raskin*

page 34

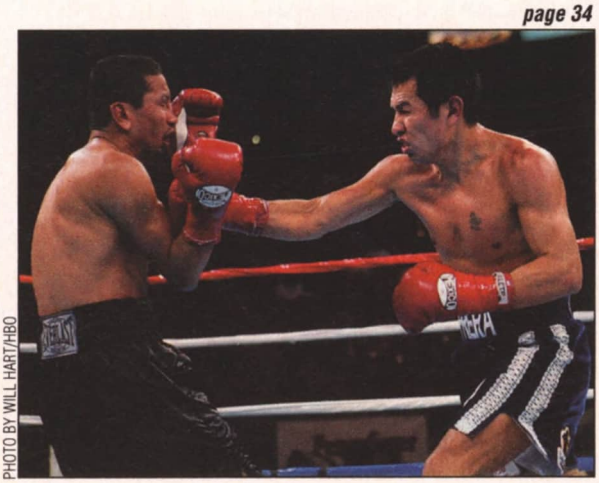


PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Cover Photos:
Felix Trinidad by Frank Vitucci
Ricardo Mayorga by Duane Long

Cover Design:
Monica Fisher

RINGSIDE

It's always bad news when people come away from a fight talking more about the referee than the fighters, and there are few things more infuriating than watching a bad referee messing up a good fight. Unfortunately, we've had two flagrant cases recently, both of which cast a pall over what would have otherwise been entertaining bouts.

Like virtually everybody else who saw the Courtney Burton-Emanuel Augustus and Rocky Juarez-Zahir Raheem fights, I wanted to jump through my TV set and strangle referees Dan Kelley (Burton-Augustus) and Robert Gonzalez (Juarez-Raheem). Now that I've calmed down a bit, I wish neither Kelley nor Gonzalez any physical harm. I just don't ever want to see either of them work another fight. Sure, everybody has a bad day on the job from time to time, but these guys were so appalling, the sport can't risk giving them another opportunity to screw up.

In both bouts, the referees continually badgered the out-of-state boxers (Augustus and Raheem), issued numerous unwarranted warnings, docked points unnecessarily, failed to enforce the rules uniformly, and ended up unduly influencing the outcome of the fight, both of which went to the local fighters via dubious decisions.

The fact that it was the home-state fighters who benefited the most from the atrocious officiating is probably not entirely coincidental. But as we have no proof that either Kelley or Gonzalez did anything illegal, we are forced to presume they are innocent of any overt hanky-panky.

So if the fix wasn't in, what went wrong?

My guess is that the referees allowed their personal feelings to override their judgment. Certain refs have a lot of trouble keeping their egos in check. They're used to being the boss between the ropes and enjoy asserting their power. When an individual with this sort of personality has their authority challenged, as both Kelley and Gonzalez did, they often react like spoiled children and become even less effective.

Maybe referees should go through some sort of psychological screening process before being licensed, because it's the fighters who are supposed to be on a power trip, not the referee.

***

On this page in the October 2004 issue, I celebrated the demise of the WBC and scolded light heavyweight champion Antonio Tarver for sticking up for the Mexico-based gang of scoundrels. Now I'm reminded of the old joke about the guy who went to his enemy's funeral just to make sure he was dead.

Right before the WBC's coffin was about to be nailed shut, rumors began to circulate that the bankrupt alphabet organization might strike an 11th-hour deal to avoid liquidation. Nothing was official when we went to press, but if the WBC does survive this latest brush with mortality, I can assure readers that THE RING will continue to battle against the nefarious activities of an organization that has already done more than its share of harm. In fact, beginning with this issue, we have decided to cease carrying the alphabet groups' bogus ratings on our pages.

***

Timing is everything, and I was pleased when former junior featherweight champion Paulie Ayala decided to retire following his TKO loss to Marco Antonio Barrera. Throughout his career Paulie embodied everything that's good about boxing, and nobody wants to see him keep fighting now that age and tough fights have taken their inevitable toll.

Paulie epitomized class on both sides of the ropes and never failed to give everything he had inside the ring. That these qualities made him a champion and allowed him to earn a handful of big paydays just goes to prove that good guys can indeed finish first.

Thanks for everything, Paulie. It's been a privilege covering your career.

Nigel Collins
Editor-in-Chief

Volume 83, No. 12 **Fall 2004**

The Ring®

ANOTHER FINE KAPPA PUBLICATION

THE RING
"The Bible Of Boxing"

NATHANIEL S. FLEISCHER
1888-1972 Founder

STUART SAKS
Publisher

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ..... Nigel Collins
MANAGING EDITOR ..... Eric Raskin
ASSOCIATE EDITOR ..... Joseph Santoliquito
SENIOR ART DIRECTOR ..... Walt Schmidt
ART DIRECTORS ..... Greg Stevens
Jim Malloy
Monica Fisher
PRODUCTION MANAGER ..... Bethany Lawler
PRE-PRESS DIRECTOR ..... Cliff Campo
IMAGING DIRECTOR ..... Michael Kilgore
ASSISTANT EDITORS ..... Dave Lenker
Brandi Mankiewicz
SENIOR WRITER ..... William Dettloff

PRESIDENT
Despina McNulty

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
Kenneth J. Gudaitis

SR. V.P. FINANCE/BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
Philip Ketonis

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
David Tyler

RETAIL SERVICES DIRECTOR
Briana Coppola

NATIONAL CIRCULATION MANAGERS
Robert Nucci
Dave Hagman

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Vincent Bellissima
(215) 643-6385
vbellissima@kappapublishing.com

ADVERTISING ASSISTANT
Dianne Weber

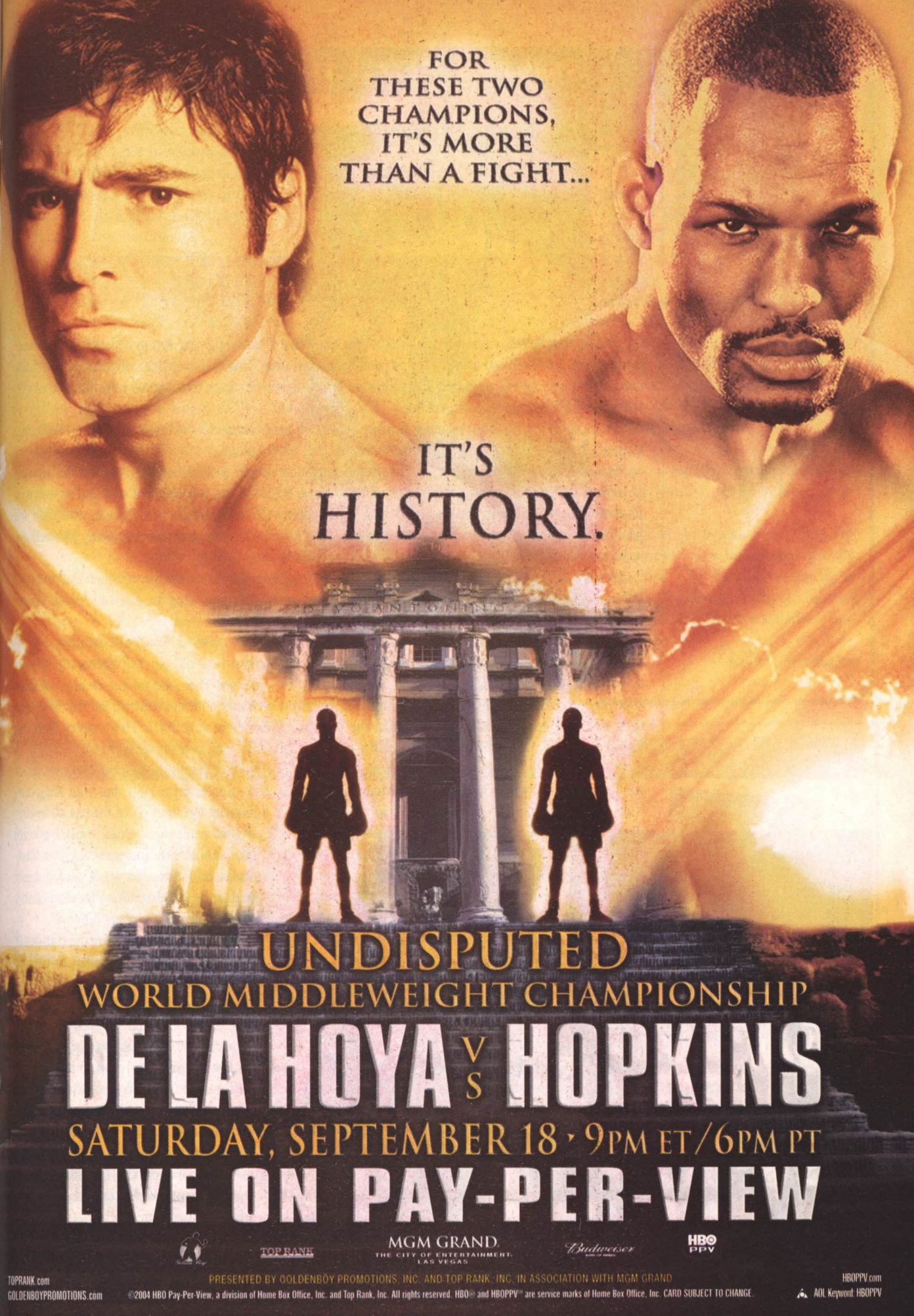
SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 2085
Marion, OH 43306-8185
(815) 734-1212

The Ring (ISSN: 0035-5410), Vol. 83, No. 12 (Fall 2004), is published monthly, with additional issues in August and December, by London Publishing Co., 7002 W. Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002. Periodicals postage paid at Ambler, PA 19002 and additional post offices. Postmaster: Send change of address notices to: The Ring, P.O. Box 2029, Dept. 9, Marion, OH 43306-8121. Single copy price $4.50 ($5.99 in Canada, £2.99 in U.K.). Subscription price $85.50 in the U.S., $114.90 in Canada and remaining countries. Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage.

The entire contents of this magazine are copyright ©2004 London Publishing Co. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved.

FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES AND RATES: (215) 643-6385. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Kable Distribution Services Inc., 641 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10022. International distribution by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010, U.K. distribution by Comag, Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England.

Printed in U.S.A.


FOR
THESE TWO
CHAMPIONS,
IT'S MORE
THAN A FIGHT...
IT'S
HISTORY.
UNDISPUTED
WORLD MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP
DE LA HOYA VS HOPKINS
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 • 9PM ET/6PM PT
LIVE ON PAY-PER-VIEW
TOP RANK
MGM GRAND
THE CITY OF ENTERTAINMENT
LAS VEGAS
Budweiser
HBO PPV
TOPRANK.com
GOLDENBOYPROMOTIONS.com
PRESENTED BY GOLDENBOY PROMOTIONS, INC. AND TOP RANK, INC. IN ASSOCIATION WITH MGM GRAND
©2004 HBO Pay-Per-View, a division of Home Box Office, Inc. and Top Rank, Inc. All rights reserved. HBO® and HBOPPV℠ are service marks of Home Box Office, Inc. CARD SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
HBOPPV.com
AOL Keyword: HBOPPV

ROUND ONE

KING SWINGS DEAL WITH TYSON

The popular belief among boxing insiders was that Mike Tyson's fighting future depended on the outcome of that $100-million lawsuit he had pending against Don King. If Iron Mike collected the full sum, he wouldn't have to box anymore. If he didn't collect, well then, it's back to doing the only thing he can do to earn seven figures in a single evening.

By the time you read this, reluctant warrior Tyson will have returned to battle against Danny Williams. Connect the dots, and that means he didn't collect the full $100-million.

Tyson settled with King in late-June, collecting a relatively paltry $14-million from the man he accused of stealing millions more than that from his purses from 1995-'97. King was to make an initial payment of $8-million, followed by payments of $3-million in January '05 and January '06. Tyson, who filed for bankruptcy in February with debts to the IRS, ex-wife Monica Turner, and others totaling $38-million, won't pocket one cent of the $14-million he's getting from King.

So why did Tyson settle for $14-million when he could have had more than seven times that amount? His attorneys didn't want to risk King charming the jury and/or Tyson hurting his cause by saying something Tysonesque during the trial, so they took the sure thing instead.

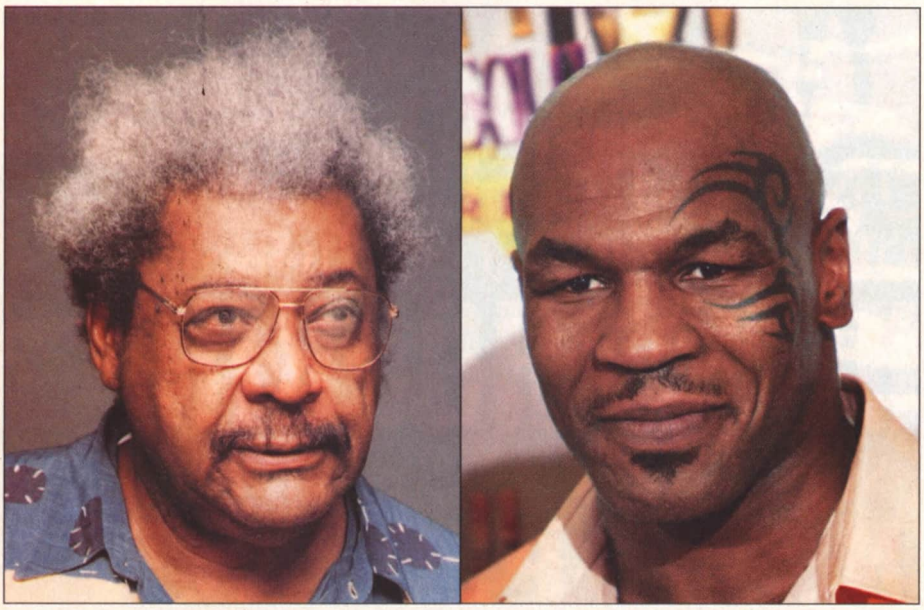
Tyson's attorneys then filed paperwork with the U.S. bankruptcy court in New York outlining a fighting schedule that should dig Tyson out of debt within three years. First, Tyson will attempt to sell his homes in Las Vegas and Connecticut for approximately $4.5-million. Then, the former champ will turn over 50 percent of his net earnings from future fights to his creditors until the debt is paid off. The plan calls for Tyson to fight six more times after the Williams fight before July 2007. That's seven fights in three years. Prior to the Williams fight, Tyson had gotten in the ring eight times in seven years.

For boxing fans, the most interesting fallout of all of this is the fact that the settlement opens the door for Tyson to work with King again. Iron Mike hasn't faced a King fighter since 1997, but with King currently controlling six of the top 10 heavyweight contenders, doing business with DK significantly increases the potential-opponent options. So would Tyson again deal with the promoter he so recently sued for allegedly ripping him off?

"Under the right circumstances," Tyson adviser Shelly Finkel told *USA Today*.

The frontrunner for a Tyson fight appears to be WBO beltholder Lamon Brewster, a tough customer, but one who has lost lopsided decisions to the likes of Cliff Etienne and Charles Shufford and who was thoroughly dominated by Wladimir Klitschko until the fragile Ukrainian suddenly collapsed from exhaustion in April '04. Sounds to us like a pretty reasonable excuse for selling his soul to King again.

—Eric Raskin



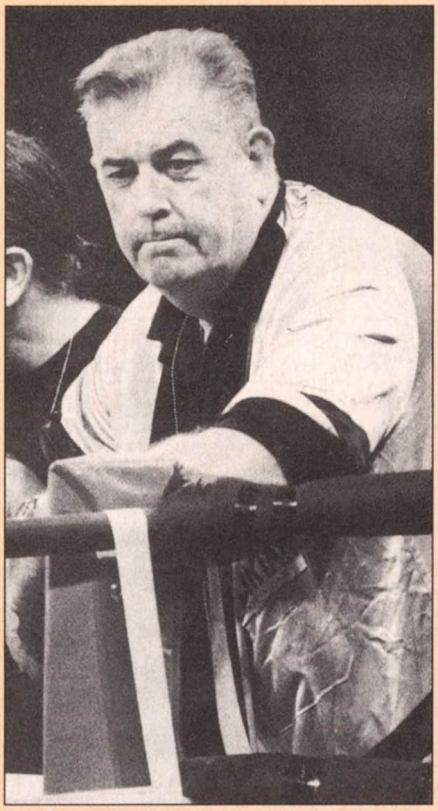
King and Tyson: Will settlement pave way for working relationship?

AL GAVIN, 1934-2004

Al Gavin, who was regarded as one of boxing's premier cutmen, passed away at Winthrop Hospital in Mineola, New York, on July 8 after suffering a massive stroke at his Bethpage, Long Island, home on June 28.

Although Gavin, 70, was best known for being Lennox Lewis' cutman since 1991, he also drew high praise for his work with Micky Ward during his trilogy with Arturo Gatti, and in nearly 100 world title fights featuring the likes of Oscar De La Hoya, Junior Jones, Kevin Kelley, and Tracy Harris Patterson. He and longtime friend Bob Jackson were corecipients of the Boxing Writers Association of America's James J. Walker Award for Long and Meritorious Service to Boxing in 1999.

As a young man, Gavin had apprenticed under the likes of such venerable trainers and cutmen as Ray Arcel, Whitey Bimstein, Chickie Ferrara, and Freddie Brown at the old Stillman's Gym. Three decades ago, he and Jackson took over Manhattan's Gramercy Gym from Cus D'Amato and ran it until it closed in 1990.



Gavin: First-rate cutman dies at 70

"It's hard to describe just how good of a cutman Al really was," said a distraught Chuck Wepner, the former heavyweight contender whom many regard as the dean of all bleeders. "He was just as comfortable working with the heavyweight champion as he was with a four-round preliminary kid. He was one of the best, if not the best, cutman of this era. Not only that, he was such a classy guy, a quiet, dignified man who was always a complete professional. The boxing world is really going to miss him."

Gavin, who was employed for many years as a landscaper for the New York City Parks Department, is survived by his wife Joyce, his son Al Jr., and his daughters Barbara and Maureen.

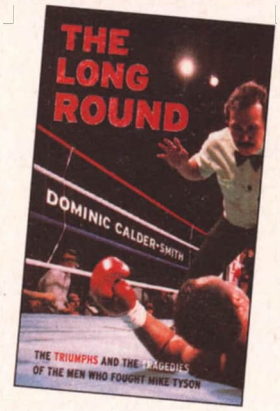
—Robert Mladinich

THE BOXING BOOKSHELF

Mike Tyson fell far short of Muhammad Ali's achievements in the ring, but he's a close second to Ali when it comes to being a popular subject for authors. The latest book about the rampaging runt from Brooklyn is Dominic Calder-Smith's *The Long Round* (Yellow Jersey Press, £10.99, soft cover), an ambitious, irresistible mess of a book that looks not only at Tyson, but also at a number of his early opponents.

Using the same premise as Stephen Brunt's excellent *Facing Ali*, Calder-Smith seeks out the fighters hammered by Tyson during his prime years. But unlike Brunt, who reported solely on Ali's opponents and kept Ali in the background, Calder-Smith wastes far too many pages rehashing Tyson's well-worn mythos. Still, when the author allows his subjects to speak, such as when Pinklon Thomas recounts his years as a heroin addict, the book's melancholy message emerges: The same things that ruined Tyson, namely the 1980s party culture and the promise of big bucks, perhaps doomed Tyson's opponents.

Comparisons to Brunt's book are inevitable, but the two books taken together reveal something interesting. The retired pugs profiled by Brunt seem proud to have their names linked with Ali's, while Calder-Smith depicts Tyson's opponents as pitiful ghouls, shambling across a neon-lit wasteland of drugs, mental illness, and crime. The impression made by *The Long Round* is that these fighters were destined for bad times whether they fought Tyson or not. Particularly moving is the chapter on



Carl Williams, now a security guard at Ground Zero. Embarrassed by his current situation, Williams sometimes keeps his identity as a former contender a secret. It's an ironic end for a man who once used Tyson as a sparring partner, and whose nickname was "The Truth."

—Don Stradley

TV FIGHTS OF THE MONTH

DATE	WINNER/LOSER	NETWORK	DIVISION	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
6-17-04	Paul Malignaggi W 10 Ramiro Cano	Show	jw	C+	B-	C+
Maybe you like Malignaggi, maybe you don't; he doesn't care						
6-18-04	Tom Davis KO 1 Kendall Holt	ESPN2	w	C	B	B+
See what happens, kids, when you get greedy?						
6-18-04	Demetrius Hopkins Tech. Win 7 Al Gonzales	ESPN2	w	C+	B-	C-
Call us crazy, but we think Gonzales was getting to Hopkins a little bit						
6-19-04	Jermain Taylor KO 9 Raul Marquez	HBO	m	B+	D-	C
What?? Taylor stopped an old, small, used-up junior middleweight? We're shocked—shocked!						
6-19-04	Marco Antonio Barrera KO 10 Paulie Ayala	HBO	f	A-	B+	B-
Yes, Barrera looked wonderful, and no, he can't beat Pacquiao						
6-24-04	Librado Andrade W 12 Tito Mendoza	HBO L	sm	C+	B+	B
Hey here's an idea, guys: Next time Mendoza isn't fighting well, try bleeding him with leeches						
7-1-04	Adrian Mora W 10 Steve Quinonez	Show	l	C	C+	C+
Sometimes it comes down to geometry: Tall guy keeps short guy outside, tall guy wins						
7-2-04	Steven Luevano KO 9 Fred Neal	Telef	jl	C+	B	B+
Defense? We don't need no stinkin' defense						
7-2-04	Kelly Pavlik KO 6 Pedro Ortega	Telef	sm	C+	C-	C-
Ortega going for the record for consecutive losses to white guys						
7-2-04	Lawrence Clay-Bey KO 5 Imamu Mayfield	ESPN2	h	C+	B	C+
Mayfield could be a champ if they outlaw getting punched on the jaw						
7-3-04	Eliseo Castillo W 10 Michael Moorer	Show	h	B-	B	D
Some day, when he's ready, Moorer is going to make some psychotherapist filthy rich						
7-3-04	Joel Casamayor W 10 Daniel Seda	Show	l	A-	B-	B
Note to Casamayor: From now on, after you deck a guy, run around the ring until the bell sounds						
7-6-04	Courtney Burton W 10 Emanuel Augustus	ESPN2	jw	B	B+	D-
This is why your friends think you're an idiot for being a fight fan; can you blame them?						
7-9-04	Yory Boy Campas W 10 Andres Pacheco	Telef	jm	C	D+	C+
Campas struggling against even the novices now; the end can't be far						
7-9-04	Ebo Elder W 10 Fernando Trejo	ESPN2	l	B-	B-	C+
We're not sure "Ebo" even qualifies legally as a name, but the kid can box						
7-13-04	Freddy Hernandez W 10 Jesus Soto-Karass	ESPN2	w	C	B+	C-
Guaranteed, the least-watched fight ever by those in attendance						
7-15-04	Mike Anchondo W 12 Julio Pablo Chacon	HBO L	jl	B	B+	B-
Note to Chacon: If you land the right every time you throw it, um, throw it more						
7-15-04	David Estrada W 12 Nurhan Suleymanoglu	Show	w	C+	A	C+
Upset! What we want to know is why Suleymanoglu was considered such a favorite in the first place						
7-16-04	Koba Gogoladze W 10 Lamar Murphy	ESPN2	l	C+	B	C
Welcome to gatekeeper island, Lamar; population: you						
7-17-04	Mark Johnson W 10 Paulino Villalobos	PPV	f	B+	D-	C-
Johnson will clear about $3.99 for this fight; and you wonder why fighters are bitter						
7-17-04	Laila Ali KO 4 Nikki Eplion	PPV	sm	C+	C-	C+
So how long before Ali runs out of big-boned housewives to beat up?						
7-17-04	Kermit Cintron KO 8 Teddy Reid	HBO	w	B	A	B+
Reid the only fighter we've seen who apparently starts getting winded during the walk to the ring						
7-17-04	Rocky Juarez W 12 Zahir Raheem	HBO	f	B+	A	C+
Hey, can we get Robert Gonzales to referee all of John Ruiz' future fights?						
7-17-04	**Juan Diaz W 12 Lakva Sim**	**HBO**	**WBA l**	**A-**	**A-**	**B**
Main Events picked the right guy to go after; Sim slower than erosion						

Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

(World/Alphabet title fights in **bold** type)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

Network key: PPV—Pay-Per-View; Show—Showtime; FOXSN—Fox Sports Net; Uni—Univision; Telef—Telefutura; Telem—Telemundo; HBO L—HBO Latino

COURAGEOUS COMEBACK

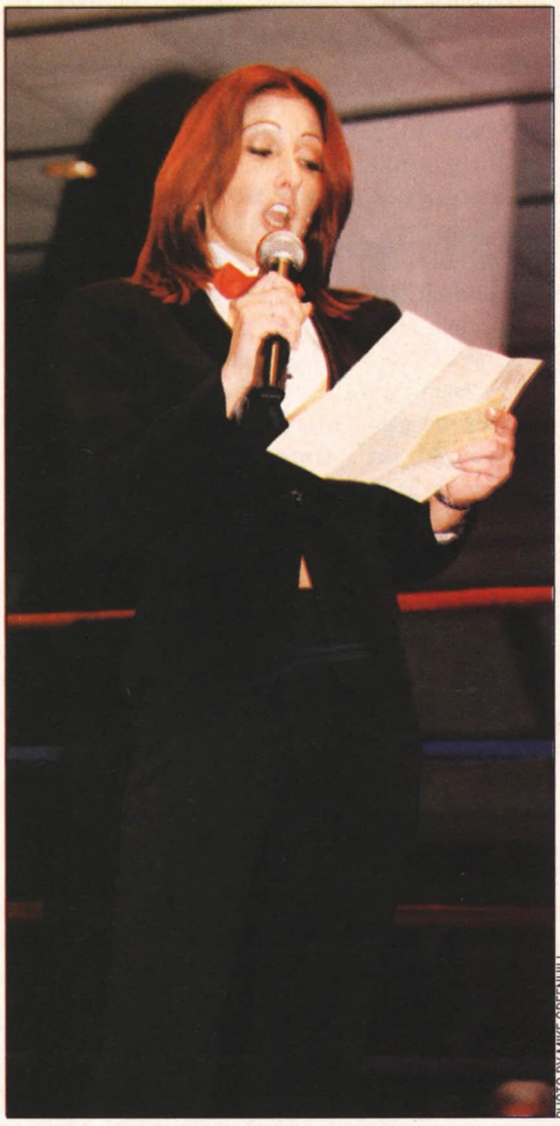


PHOTO BY MIKE GREENHILL

Inspiring Loren on the mike

Boxing has had its share of Rocky-like stories over the years, and we can now add the name of Baltimore's Michele Loren to the list of scrappy individuals who have overcome the odds. The beautiful 35-year-old Loren is a ring announcer for the local Charm City Boxing series in Baltimore, but not long ago, Michele would have been lucky just to walk from the kitchen to the living room.

In 1991, Loren slipped on water in the kitchen of a restaurant where she was employed, spraining her ankle. The sprain activated a rare disease called Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD), which causes tremendous pain and paralysis. There is no known cure.

"For six years I was confined to a wheelchair, and was told I wouldn't walk again," said Loren. But after intense physical therapy that "was going nowhere," she said, "I just decided one day I was going to walk." So Loren got out of her chair and started crawling from room to room, and then began using a walker, before graduating to crutches. Now she walks unaided.

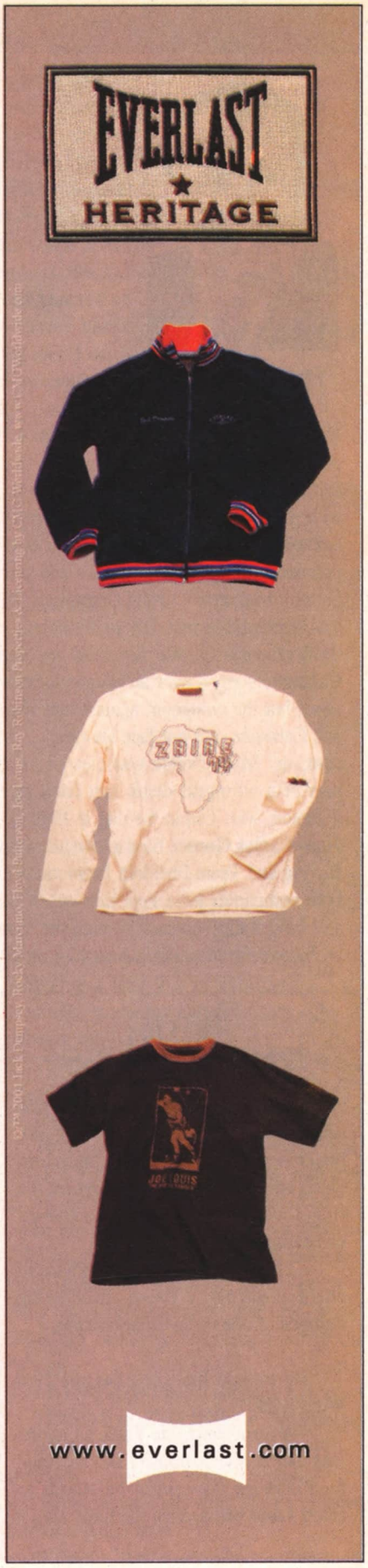
Loren progressed enough to get a job in the office of a Baltimore construction company, and started modeling for Charm City Boxing. Promoter Felix Dialoiso suggested she try ring announcing, and Loren debuted in the square circle last November at a Charm City show, got favorable reviews, and has been part of the program ever since.

"I was a little nervous at first, but I'm very comfortable in there now," said Loren. "[Philadelphia-area ring announcer] Nino Del Buono has taken me under his wing, and helped me tremendously. The pain from RSD is always there, but I simply choose to ignore it. You can let it beat you or you can overcome it. I chose to overcome it."

Spoken like a true champ.

For more information on RSD, check the Web site www.rsdinfo.org.

—Mike Greenhill



OUTSIDE THE ROPES

Sheridan: Entering the World Boxing Hall

The California-based World Boxing Hall of Fame announced its 2004 inductees in early-July, with three-division titlist **Jeff Fenech** the only new honoree who has also been recognized by the International Boxing Hall of Fame. Also entering the WBHOF at the October 16 dinner in Los Angeles will be former heavyweight beltholders **Ernie Terrell** and **Jimmy Ellis**, three-time flyweight titleholder **Betulio Gonzalez**, and broadcaster **Colonel Bob Sheridan** ... Former flyweight king **Eric Morel** was formally charged in early-July, along with two others, with sexually assaulting a 15-year-old girl. No court date had been set as of press time ... Ex-con **Tony Ayala's** struggles with the law continue. The 41-year-old super middleweight was arrested after he was found during an early-July traffic stop to be in possession of drug paraphernalia and driving without a license or proof of insurance ... 1984 Olympic gold medalist **Henry Tillman** was sentenced in mid-July to 37 months in jail on federal identity theft charges ... We reported top super middleweight **Joe Calzaghe's** arrest over an alleged incident involving his wife last issue, but the complaint against him was withdrawn in mid-July, and Calzaghe will not face charges ... In early-July, promotional company Main Events was cleared of charges of negligence as part of a wrongful death suit filed by the family of **Stephan Johnson**, who died in the ring in 1999 ... Heavyweight contender **Juan Carlos Gomez** filed a lawsuit against **Sugar Ray Leonard** Boxing and Team Freedom Promotions in mid-July, alleging that both companies have kept him out of the ring by insisting they still have valid contracts to promote Gomez and deterring other promoters from working with him. A few days later, a Florida judge issued an injunction preventing the two promoters from interfering in Gomez' fights ... Former middleweight and light heavyweight contender **Henry Hank** died in early-July at age 69 from complications of Alzheimer's disease. Born **Joseph Harrison** (and eventually renamed **Jusuf Salaam** when he became a Muslim), Hank, 62-31-4 (40), battled such greats as **Dick Tiger**, **Jimmy Ellis**, **Harold Johnson**, and **Bob Foster**, but was best known for his majority decision loss to **Joey Giardello** in 1962's Fight of the Year. In a career spanning from '53-'72, Hank never received a title shot ... A onetime conqueror of Hank's, **Gene "Ace" Armstrong**, also died in early-July, at age 72. Three of the four losses on Armstrong's 19-4-1 (1) record came against future middleweight champ Tiger, and the fourth came against future welter champ **Luis Rodriguez** in '62 in Armstrong's final fight ... Two-time junior featherweight title challenger **Juan Antonio Lopez** died of leukemia in late-June at the age of 52. In both 1978 and '82, Lopez was stopped by **Wilfredo Gomez** in WBC title bids, and he also suffered defeats to the likes of **Eder Jofre** and a teenaged **Marco Antonio Barrera**, while scoring wins over **Romeo Anaya** and **Alfonso Frazier**. During a career that spanned from 1971-'92, Lopez posted a 66-19 (46) mark ... Finally, one of boxing's true good guys, **Frank Cappuccino**, unable to keep up with the exorbitant medical bills for his 52-year-old son, **Frank Jr.**, a Navy veteran suffering from Parkinson's disease, has organized a benefit show. The 70-year-old referee is putting together a card at the National Guard Armory in Philadelphia on Sunday, September 26; for ticket information, please call 215-757-3947.

Armstrong: Former middle contender dies

THE PUNCHLINES

"I have been undefeated for the past seven years, and I know who I am, regardless of the WBA's decision. Until someone defeats me inside the ring, I will continue to be the undisputed champion."

—THE RING junior welterweight champion Kostya Tszyu, after being stripped of one of his alphabet titles

"He looked like me after the first Ward fight."

—Arturo Gatti, on Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter's bruised and bloodied face after he dove into the stands to catch a foul ball against the Red Sox

AL KRATZER'S VIEW

"THE BIBLE OF BOXING"

RATINGS ANALYSIS

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. BERNARD HOPKINS
   Middleweight
2. FLOYD MAYWEATHER
   Junior Welterweight
3. ANTONIO TARVER
   Light Heavyweight
4. ROY JONES
   Light Heavyweight
5. WINKY WRIGHT
   Junior Middleweight
6. ERIK MORALES
   Junior Lightweight
7. MANNY PACQUIAO
   Featherweight
8. JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ
   Featherweight
9. OSCAR DE LA HOYA
   Middleweight
10. KOSTYA TSZYU
    Junior Welterweight

(For period ended July 21, 2004)

HEAVYWEIGHTS: No changes.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: No changes.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: Previously unranked Thomas Ulrich debuts at number nine on the strength of his kayo of Silvio Branco (ninth last issue). Branco exits.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Byron Mitchell (sixth last issue) departs due to the fact that he has not fought in more than a year. This pushes up everybody ranked below Mitchell last issue one position each and makes room for Syd Vanderpool to return at the 10th spot.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Sam Soliman (10th last issue) and Raymond Joval (ninth last issue) trade places due to Soliman's decision win over Joval.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No changes.

WELTERWEIGHTS: Knockout artist Kermit Cintron crashes the rankings at number seven by stopping Teddy Reid, who held that position last issue. Reid drops to 10th. In the reshuffling, Carlos Baldomir goes from 10th to ninth and Jose Rivera (ninth last issue) exits.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: No changes.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: Juan Diaz (ninth last issue) climbs to fifth after decisioning Lakva Sim, who drops from eighth to ninth. Diaz' advancement lowers Javier Jauregui (fifth last issue), Artur Grigorian (sixth last issue), and Julien Lorcy (seventh last issue) one position each.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: No changes.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: Rocky Juarez (ninth last issue) and Zahir Raheem (10th last issue) move up to sixth and seventh, respectively, following Juarez' close, controversial decision over Raheem. Their promotions force down Derrick Gainer (sixth last issue) and Michael Brodie (eighth last issue) to eighth and ninth, respectively. William Abelyan (seventh last issue) exits following a kayo loss to third-ranked Scott Harrison, making room for Chris John to debut at number 10.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: No changes.

BANTAMWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: Katsushige Kawashima zooms from unranked to the number-one spot by virtue of his upset kayo of Masamori Tokuyama, who falls from first to fifth. Everybody ranked fifth or below last issue slips one spot each due to the changes, and Eric Morel (10th last issue) gets squeezed out of the ratings.

FLYWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: No changes.

STRAWWEIGHTS: Yutaka Niida (fifth last issue) and Noel Arambulet (first last issue) switch spots after Niida's decision win over Arambulet.

POUND-FOR-POUND: No changes. ■

THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended July 21, 2004

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Kermit Cintron entered the welterweight rankings at number seven

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

Fighters recognized as champions by THE RING are rated at the top of their division, with the top 10 contenders listed below.

Championship vacancies can be filled in one of two ways: by unifying all three alphabet titles in a division; or by winning a box-off between THE RING'S number-one and number-two contenders, or, in certain instances, a box-off between our number-one and number-three contenders.

The only three occasions when a fighter will lose his championship status are when he retires, moves to another weight division, or is defeated in a championship bout.

Ratings By The Editors

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

Champ: VITALI KLITSCHKO
Ukraine 34-2 (33)

1. **CHRIS BYRD**
Flint, MI 37-2-1 (20)
2. **JOHN RUIZ**
Methuen, MA 40-5-1 (28)
3. **JAMES TONEY**
Ann Arbor, MI 67-4-2 (43)
4. **HASIM RAHMAN**
Baltimore, MD 38-5-1 (31)
5. **MONTE BARRETT**
Queens, NY 30-3 (6)
6. **ANDREW GOLOTA**
Poland 38-4-1 (31)
7. **FRES OQUENDO**
Puerto Rico 24-3 (15)
8. **LAMON BREWSTER**
Los Angeles, CA 30-2 (27)
9. **JAMEEL McCLINE**
Port Jefferson, NY 31-3-1 (19)
10. **JOE MESI**
Tonawanda, NY 29-0 (25)

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

Champ: WINKY WRIGHT
St. Petersburg, FL 47-3 (25)

1. **SHANE MOSLEY**
Pomona, CA 39-3 (35)
2. **KASSIM OUMA**
W. Palm Beach, FL 19-1-1 (13)
3. **VERNO PHILLIPS**
Aurora, CO 38-8-1 (20)
4. **FERNANDO VARGAS**
Oxnard, CA 24-2 (22)
5. **JAVIER CASTILLEJO**
Spain 58-5 (40)
6. **DANIEL SANTOS**
Puerto Rico 28-2-1 (20)
7. **TRAVIS SIMMS**
Norwalk, CT 23-0 (18)
8. **RODNEY JONES**
Lafayette, LA 33-3 (22)
9. **J.C. CANDELO**
Colombia 27-6-3 (19)
10. **BRONCO McKART**
Monroe, MI 47-5 (31)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

Champ: MANNY PACQUIAO
Philippines 38-2-2 (29)

1. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
Mexico 42-2-1 (33)
2. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
Mexico 58-4 (41)
3. **SCOTT HARRISON**
Scotland 22-2-1 (12)
4. **INJIN CHI**
South Korea 28-2-1 (17)
5. **MANUEL MEDINA**
Mexico 62-14 (28)
6. **ROCKY JUAREZ**
Houston, TX 21-0 (14)
7. **ZAHIR RAHEEM**
Tulsa, OK 25-1 (15)
8. **DERRICK GAINER**
Pensacola, FL 39-6-1 (24)
9. **MICHAEL BRODIE**
England 35-2-1 (23)
10. **CHRIS JOHN**
Indonesia 34-0 (19)

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **OSCAR LARIOS**
Mexico 52-3-1 (35)
2. **ISRAEL VAZQUEZ**
Mexico 36-3 (27)
3. **MAHYAR MONSHIPOUR**
France 25-2-2 (16)
4. **JOAN GUZMAN**
Dominican Republic 21-0 (17)
5. **JOSE LUIS VALBUENA**
Venezuela 24-3-1 (14)
6. **SALIM MEDJKOUNE**
France 43-5-1 (21)
7. **YODDAMRONG SITHYODTHONG**
Thailand 36-1-1 (19)
8. **JORGE LACIERVA**
Mexico 26-5-4 (18)
9. **ART SIMONYAN**
Glendale, CA 14-0-1 (7)
10. **SERGIO MANUEL MEDINA**
Argentina 18-0 (10)

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **RAFAEL MARQUEZ**
Mexico 31-3 (28)
2. **VEERAPOL SAHAPROM**
Thailand 44-1-2 (31)
3. **JOHNNY BREDAHL**
Denmark 55-2 (26)
4. **RATANACHAI VORAPIN**
Thailand 57-8 (39)
5. **GENARO GARCIA**
Mexico 31-4 (19)
6. **CRUZ CARBAJAL**
Mexico 24-12-1 (20)
7. **TOSHIAKI NISHIOKA**
Japan 23-4-3 (14)
8. **HERIBERTO RUIZ**
Mexico 30-2-2 (13)
9. **SILENCE MABUZA**
South Africa 15-0 (14)
10. **RICARDO VARGAS**
Mexico 36-10-3 (11)

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 200 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **WAYNE BRAITHWAITE**
   Guyana 21-0 (17)
2. **JEAN-MARC MORMECK**
   France 30-2 (21)
3. **JOHNNY NELSON**
   England 43-12-2 (28)
4. **O'NEIL BELL**
   Atlanta, GA 22-1-1 (21)
5. **KELVIN DAVIS**
   Reno, NV 21-2-1 (16)
6. **CARL THOMPSON**
   England 32-6 (24)
7. **STEVE CUNNINGHAM**
   Philadelphia, PA 15-0 (8)
8. **VIRGIL HILL**
   Bismarck, ND 49-5 (23)
9. **DALE BROWN**
   Canada 31-3-1 (20)
10. **PIETRO AURINO**
    Italy 28-2 (13)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 175 pounds

Champ: ANTONIO TARVER
Orlando, FL 22-2 (18)

1. **ROY JONES**
   Pensacola, FL 49-2 (38)
2. **ZSOLT ERDEI**
   Hungary 20-0 (13)
3. **GLENCOFFE JOHNSON**
   Miami, FL 40-9-2 (27)
4. **JULIO GONZALEZ**
   Huntington Beach, CA 36-2 (22)
5. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI**
   Germany 48-1 (38)
6. **CLINTON WOODS**
   England 35-3-1 (21)
7. **FABRICE TIOZZO**
   Franco 46-2 (30)
8. **STIPE DREWS**
   Croatia 26-0 (12)
9. **THOMAS ULRICH**
   Germany 27-1 (19)
10. **RICO HOYE**
    Detroit, MI 17-0 (14)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **JOE CALZAGHE**
   Wales 37-0 (30)
2. **MANNY SIACA**
   Puerto Rico 18-4 (16)
3. **ANTHONY MUNDINE**
   Australia 20-2 (15)
4. **ANTWUN ECHOLS**
   Davenport, IA 30-5-1 (26)
5. **DANNY GREEN**
   Australia 18-1 (17)
6. **CHARLES BREWER**
   Philadelphia, PA 40-9 (28)
7. **MADS LARSEN**
   Denmark 45-2 (37)
8. **ROBIN REID**
   England 37-4-1 (27)
9. **CRISTIAN SANAVIA**
   Italy 33-1 (12)
10. **SYD VANDERPOOL**
    Canada 35-2 (23)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

Champ: BERNARD HOPKINS
Philadelphia, PA 44-2-1 (31)

1. **HOWARD EASTMAN**
   England 39-1 (35)
2. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Los Angeles, CA 37-3 (29)
3. **FELIX STURM**
   Germany 20-1 (9)
4. **ROBERT ALLEN**
   Atlanta, GA 36-5 (27)
5. **WILLIAM JOPPY**
   Washington, D.C. 34-3-1 (25)
6. **JERMAIN TAYLOR**
   Little Rock, AR 21-0 (16)
7. **MASELINO MASOE**
   New Zealand 26-2 (25)
8. **KINGSLEY IKEKE**
   Canada 20-1 (10)
9. **SAM SOLIMAN**
   Australia 27-7 (9)
10. **RAYMOND JOVAL**
    Netherlands 32-3 (14)

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

Champ: CORY SPINKS
St. Louis, MO 33-2 (11)

1. **ANTONIO MARGARITO**
   Mexico 30-3 (21)
2. **VERNON FORREST**
   Atlanta, GA 35-2 (26)
3. **ZAB JUDAH**
   Brooklyn, NY 31-2 (22)
4. **THOMAS DAMGAARD**
   Denmark 34-0 (26)
5. **MICHELE PICCIRILLO**
   Italy 42-2 (26)
6. **MANUEL GOMEZ**
   Mexico 25-10-1 (18)
7. **KERMIT CINTRON**
   Reading, PA 24-0 (22)
8. **JAWAID KHALIQ**
   England 23-1-1 (13)
9. **CARLOS BALDOMIR**
   Argentina 40-9-6 (12)
10. **TEDDY REID**
    Adelphi, MD 22-6-1 (16)

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

Champ: KOSTYA TSZYU
Australia 30-1 (24)

1. **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
   Washington, D.C. 54-3 (30)
2. **ARTURO GATTI**
   Jersey City, NJ 37-6 (28)
3. **VIVIAN HARRIS**
   Brooklyn, NY 24-1-1 (16)
4. **RICKY HATTON**
   England 36-0 (26)
5. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER**
   Grand Rapids, MI 32-0 (21)
6. **DeMARCUS CORLEY**
   Washington, D.C. 28-3-1 (16)
7. **OKTAY URKAL**
   Germany 34-2 (10)
8. **MIGUEL COTTO**
   Puerto Rico 20-0 (16)
9. **LOVEMORE NDOU**
   Australia 38-7-1 (24)
10. **JUNIOR WITTER**
    England 29-1-2 (18)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

Champ: JOSE LUIS CASTILLO
Mexico 50-6-1 (45)

1. **JUAN LAZCANO**
   El Paso, TX 33-3-1 (25)
2. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO 35-3-1 (17)
3. **ACELINO FREITAS**
   Brazil 35-0 (31)
4. **JULIO DIAZ**
   Coachella, CA 30-2 (22)
5. **JUAN DIAZ**
   Houston, TX 25-0 (12)
6. **JAVIER JAUREGUI**
   Mexico 47-11-2 (34)
7. **ARTUR GRIGORIAN**
   Uzbekistan 36-1 (22)
8. **JULIEN LORCY**
   France 56-3-2 (41)
9. **LAKVA SIM**
   Mongolia 19-4-1 (16)
10. **ISAAC HLATSHWAYO**
    South Africa 20-0 (9)

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **DIEGO CORRALES**
   Sacramento, CA 38-2 (31)
2. **JOEL CASAMAYOR**
   Miami, FL 31-2 (19)
3. **ERIK MORALES**
   Mexico 46-1 (34)
4. **JESUS CHAVEZ**
   Mexico 40-3 (28)
5. **CARLOS HERNANDEZ**
   Bellflower, CA 40-3-1 (24)
6. **YODSANAN NANTHACHAI**
   Thailand 42-2-1 (35)
7. **JORGE BARRIOS**
   Argentina 41-2-1 (29)
8. **ORLANDO SALIDO**
   Mexico 20-8-1 (13)
9. **CASSIUS BALOYI**
   South Africa 29-1 (16)
10. **MIKE ANCHONDO**
    La Puente, CA 25-0 (18)

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **KATSUSHIGE KAWASHIMA**
   Japan 26-3 (18)
2. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. 44-3 (28)
3. **ALEXANDER MUNOZ**
   Venezuela 25-0 (24)
4. **LUIS PEREZ**
   Nicaragua 22-1 (14)
5. **MASAMORI TOKUYAMA**
   North Korea 30-3-1 (8)
6. **FERNANDO MONTIEL**
   Mexico 28-1-1 (22)
7. **MARTIN CASTILLO**
   Mexico 26-1 (16)
8. **FELIX MACHADO**
   Venezuela 22-5-1 (11)
9. **MAURICIO PASTRANA**
   Colombia 31-4-1 (21)
10. **JOSE NAVARRO**
    Los Angeles, CA 20-0 (8)

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **PONGSAKLEK WONJONGKAM**
   Thailand 52-2 (28)
2. **LORENZO PARRA**
   Venezuela 23-0 (17)
3. **IRENE PACHECO**
   Colombia 28-0 (21)
4. **MZUKISI SIKALI**
   South Africa 28-4-2 (17)
5. **OMAR NARVAEZ**
   Argentina 16-0-2 (10)
6. **VIC DARCHINYAN**
   Australia 21-0 (16)
7. **BRAHIM ASLOUM**
   France 16-0 (6)
8. **HUSSEIN HUSSEIN**
   Australia 25-1 (19)
9. **LUIS MALDONADO**
   Mexico 28-0 (20)
10. **TAKEFUMI SAKATA**
    Japan 22-2-1 (9)

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

Champ: ROSENDO ALVAREZ
Nicaragua 32-2-2 (21)

1. **JORGE ARCE**
   Mexico 36-3-1 (27)
2. **VICTOR BURGOS**
   Mexico 37-13-3 (22)
3. **BEIBIS MENDOZA**
   Colombia 29-2 (23)
4. **NELSON DIEPPA**
   Puerto Rico 20-2-2 (12)
5. **PICHIT SIRIWAT**
   Thailand 30-2 (14)
6. **FAHLAN SAKKREERIN**
   Thailand 50-4-2 (20)
7. **KERMIN GUARDIA**
   Colombia 35-3 (21)
8. **ULISES SOLIS**
   Mexico 14-0 (10)
9. **ROBERTO VASQUEZ**
   Panama 16-1 (14)
10. **HUGO CAZARES**
    Mexico 18-3-1 (14)

STRAWWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 105 pounds

Champ: Vacant

1. **YUTAKA NIDA**
   Japan 16-1-3 (8)
2. **EAGLE KYOWA**
   Japan 13-0 (5)
3. **DANIEL REYES**
   Colombia 34-1-1 (29)
4. **JOSE AGUIRRE**
   Mexico 31-2-1 (19)
5. **NOEL ARAMBULET**
   Venezuela 20-3-1 (10)
6. **IVAN CALDERON**
   Puerto Rico 19-0 (3)
7. **JUAN LANDAETA**
   Venezuela 15-2-1 (13)
8. **CHANA PORPAOIN**
   Thailand 50-2-3 (17)
9. **MUHAMMAD RACHMAN**
   Indonesia 48-7-3 (21)
10. **ISAAC BUSTOS**
    Mexico 22-6-3 (11)

RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

BOXING EXISTENTIALISM

Mike Tyson will be some organization's world heavyweight champion again, and while it's tempting to say that you can take that to the bank, it's actually Iron Mike who will be doing the banking. Adorn his boring black trunks with a bejeweled strap, and no matter how superficial the title designation might be, the headline-starved fight game will go so gaga—"It's over in the third round, and Tyson has become the first lisping, Brooklyn-reared, facially tattooed convicted rapist to twice win the WBA crown during a Republican administration!"—that he's guaranteed to be overpaid for his defenses.

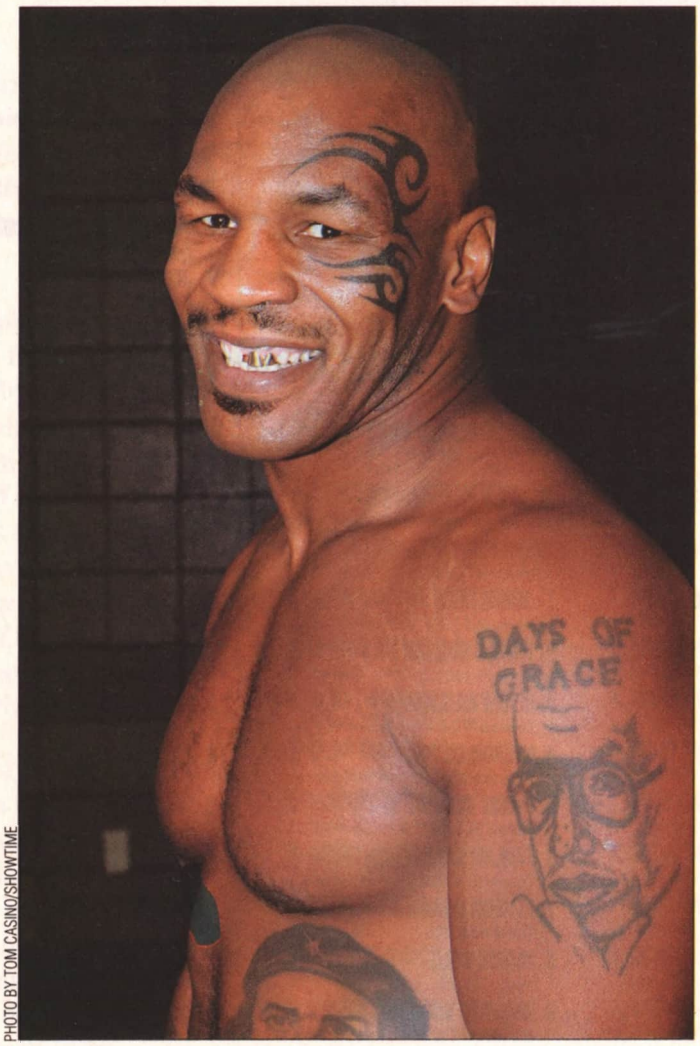


PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Has Tyson out-waited all the serious competition?

(Of course, following his fiscal fiascos of recent years, Tyson might need the Global Positioning System to find the bank, let alone remember how to fill out a deposit slip.)

What a story it will be when it happens. And what a brilliant career strategy Tyson has chosen to employ in the two years since Lennox Lewis turned him into a pancake in Memphis. Brilliant, though not exactly complicated. In fact, the blueprints for it could have fit inside a cardboard tube the size of a toilet paper roll. Tyson's plan (and he's probably going to be upset that we're revealing his secret here in print) apparently called for him to … exist. That's right. Exist. Simply eat, sleep, breathe, stay out of prison, and avoid getting hit by a meteor. Hey, fight managers, jot that down.

Only in boxing. Yes, only in the Sweet Science can a guy actually put himself in championship contention by *not* taking the field during the regular season. Only in the professional punching business can a guy use an extended layoff to bide his time, rest his weary body parts, and wait until the dangerous rivals are retired or vanquished and a whole bunch of low risk/high reward fights are suddenly sitting out there like chunks of ground beef bobbing in front of a piranha.

Heck, George Foreman showed us that a fighter can take *a decade* off, remake his body from a Greek god's to a Greek diner owner's, and come back to win the most prestigious title in the industry. He did that, of course, by landing a most opportune right hand not on the chin of Muhammad Ali, Larry

Holmes, Mike Tyson, Buster Douglas, Evander Holyfield, or Riddick Bowe, but on the button of Michael Moorer, whose beard, we discovered, wasn't very reliable at heavyweight. Right place, right time.

It's ironic that a sport known for short careers and primes that vanish in a flash is full of examples of guys who became legends because they hung around so long that the landscape around them changed, becoming far more hospitable. Arturo Gatti could have been written off on four occasions: following a stoppage loss to Angel Manfredy, the two decision defeats at the hands of Ivan Robinson, or a blitzing by Oscar De La Hoya. But Gatti stubbornly stuck around long enough for Micky Ward to enter his life. Three brutal bloodbaths later, Gatti is a bigger star than ever.

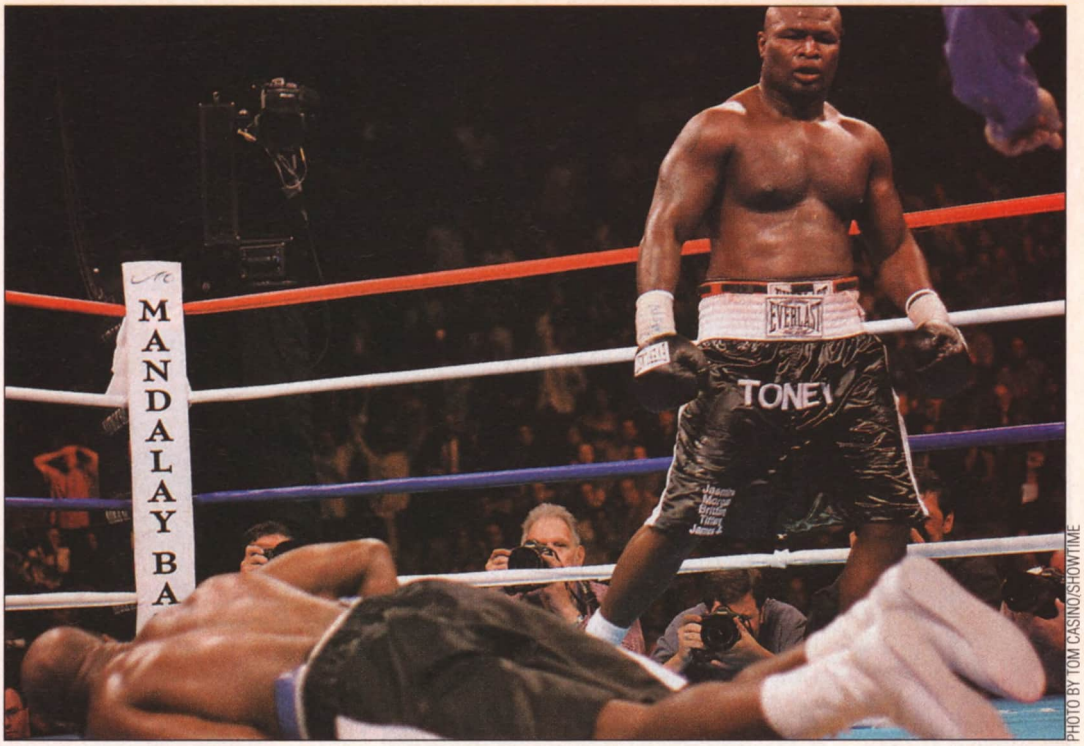


PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

It's unlikely Toney could have done this to Holyfield in "The Real Deal's" prime

Then there's the case of James Toney. Had he moved up to heavyweight in his prime and fought Holyfield, "Lights Out" would have been stripped to bare wire and lit up like the Vegas Strip at dusk. In fact, Holyfield would have beaten Toney at just about any stage of their careers—except when they actually did square off, in 2003. By then, Holyfield had sustained too much punishment, run too many miles in training, and denied himself too much junk food. He was worn out, physically, mentally, and emotionally, and ready to go. And in another year or two, Toney will face the same predicament.

In some ways, this ability of fighters to reinvent themselves, rise from the career deathbed, and make history at a time when some of their previous performances had led us to expect only that they'd make fools of themselves, is endearing. By and large, though, it bugs the hell out of me. That's because it illustrates just how much of a freak show boxing is. Sure, Foreman making history, Gatti redefining "heart," Tyson forever putting that electrical charge in the air, and Toney epitomizing fearlessness are all admirable qualities. Nonetheless, those success stories reveal boxing's weakness, not its strength. Is it greatness these guys are showing, or has the environment around them simply deteriorated so badly that they look special by comparison? Are they *really GQ* cover guys? Or is it easy to look like Brad Pitt when everyone else is Woody Allen?

Count me among those very few people who aren't impressed by rewards gained through longevity and survival. It bothers me that Phil Niekro could make it to Cooperstown simply because his knuckleball saved wear and tear on his arm and made it possible for him to stick around long enough to win 300 games. Never mind that he was never a dominant pitcher. It troubles me, too, that an Academy Award is occasionally given to someone in honor of their overall body of work and not because they gave a particularly noteworthy performance in the film for which they were nominated. Example: Paul Newman in *The Color Of Money*.

And it stinks that a ring-worn fighter can get back "on top" by beating a quality of opponent that wouldn't have gotten him within 30 floors of the top in a talent-rich era. Vitali Klitschko? John Ruiz? Chris Byrd? *These* are the heavyweight kings at whom Tyson is taking aim? Beat 'em all in one night, *then* perhaps you've done something.

One other thing that gets on my nerves about the lingerers, those who wait out the hurricane from the safety of their storm cellars and then emerge to stand tall among the ruins, is that they give hope to so many used-up pugs who think if they merely "keep on keepin' on," it will result in another dance with glory. The shot and stubborn ex-champs don't need yet another reason to delay retirement and risk walking on their heels one day. Let's face it, nothing short of a division going out of business is going to qualify as the kind of landscape change that gives some of these guys a chance to stand out once more.

Who knows? Maybe American League pitching has deteriorated to the point where Reggie Jackson could make a comeback and hit another tape-measure home run for old time's sake. Well, guess what: I'd rather not find out. The beauty of sports is supposed to be an athlete rising above his competition, not the competition lowering itself beneath him. Tyson will be a heavyweight king again, maybe even *the* heavyweight king. But contrary to what the reactivated hype machine tells us, it won't be that big of a deal.

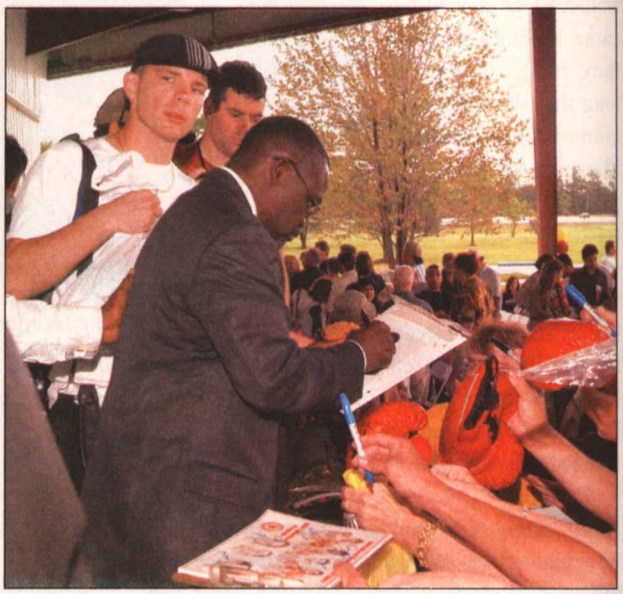
Sometimes boxing isn't about survival of the fittest. It's about surviving long enough to fit in again. ■

CAMERA CLICKS

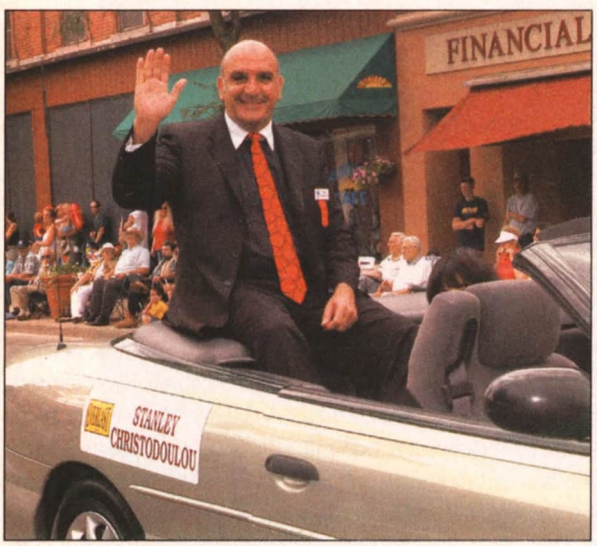
International Boxing Hall of Fame Induction Weekend

PHOTOS BY PAT ORR

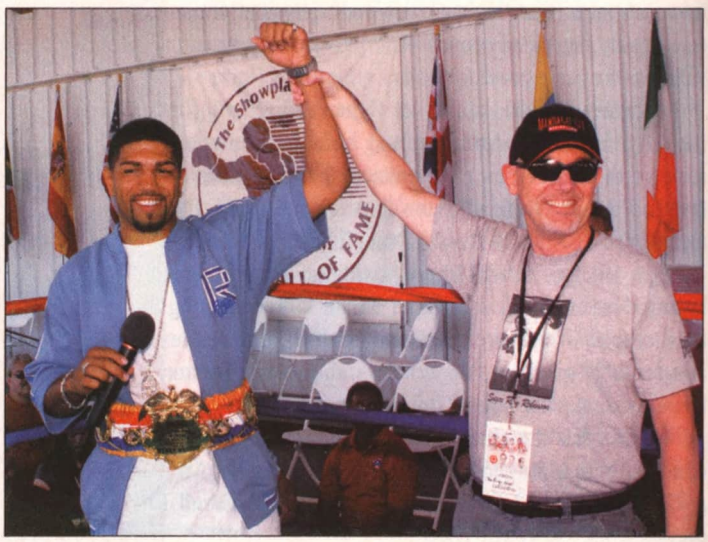
From lords of the ring to lords of the rings: Ruben Olivares and 2004 International Boxing Hall of Fame inductee Daniel Zaragoza compare jewelry—and their rings aren't the only things they have in common. Both Mexican legends won their first titles at bantamweight, then moved up and won more belts at higher weights before getting voted into the IBHOF.



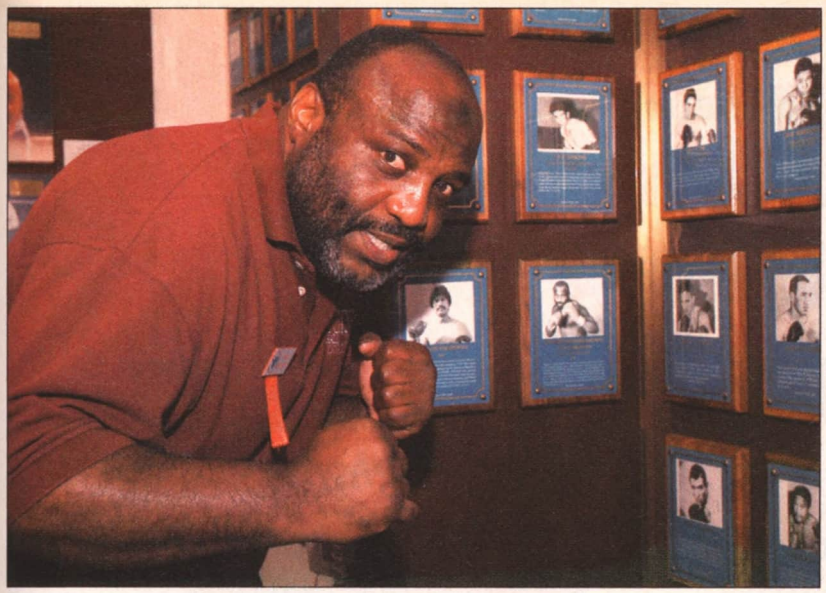
Hall of Fame Weekend isn't just about the fighters; it's also about the fans. Here, new inductee Azumah Nelson does his best to satisfy their overwhelming demand for autographs, as pens and gloves are thrust at the two-division former titleholder.



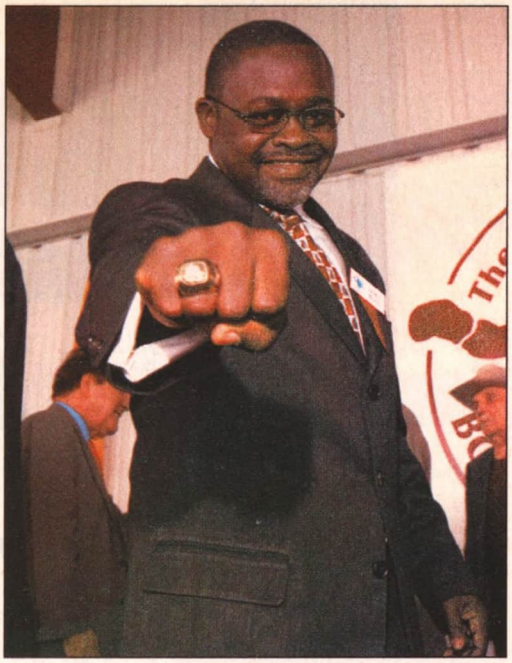
Not all of Stanley Christodoulou's journey from South Africa to Canastota was spent in the backseat of a convertible, but a few of the more memorable minutes were. The veteran referee and judge, who was enshrined in the IBHOF as part of the class of 2004, is seen here waving to fans during the 15th annual Parade of Champions.



Most of Hall of Fame Weekend is spent celebrating the past, but a few moments were taken on Saturday to celebrate the present, as THE RING Editor-in-Chief Nigel Collins presented Winky Wright with his junior middleweight world title belt. Having earned THE RING title should mean a lot more to Hall voters when Wright becomes eligible for induction than any of the more easily obtained alphabet trinkets he won earlier in his career.



Crouched and ready to launch a nasty hook, Dwight Muhammad Qawi stands beside his plaque at the Hall. The 51-year-old former light heavyweight and cruiserweight king was inducted in June in his first year of eligibility.



Normally, you wouldn't want to see this right hand coming straight at you, but it's not quite so fearsome in the context. African great Nelson shows off his Hall of Fame ring at the induction ceremonies in Canastota, New York. "The Professor" was inducted in his first year of eligibility.

New inductee Carlos Palomino stands in front of his exhibit at the IBHOF, which features the welterweight belt he won by stopping John H. Stracey in 1976. Palomino, who fought professionally until the age of 48, doesn't look too bad for a 54-year-old ex-pug, does he?

NOSTALGIA CORNER

If your first instinct upon seeing this picture is to wonder where all the Sweathogs are, you're not alone. But, believe it or not, the Gabe Kaplan look-alike is 2004 Hall of Fame inductee J Russell Peltz, accompanied by then-Philadelphia Spectrum President Lou Scheinfeld, signing a two-year contract in November 1974 to continue the boxing program at the arena.

NEW FACES

JOEY GILBERT

Middleweight

By Mike Houser

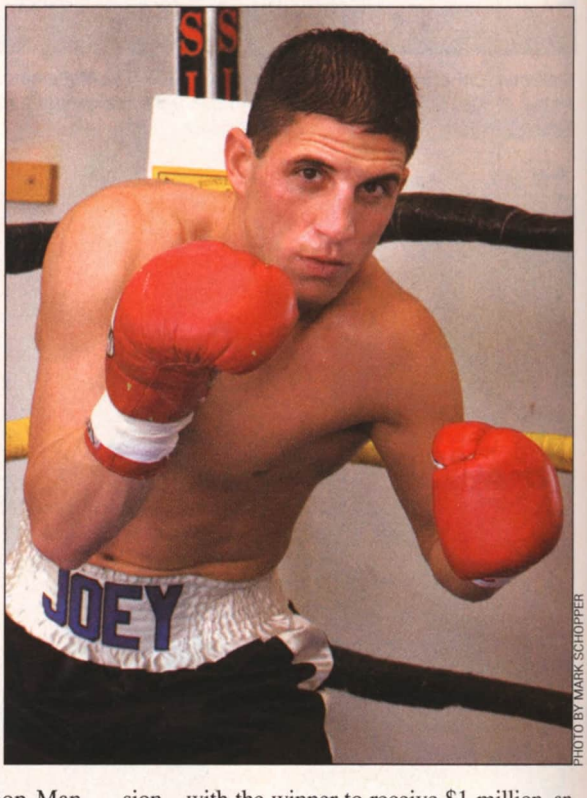


PHOTO BY MARK SCHRAER

Meet Joey Gilbert, enterprising Las Vegas businessman and prospective attorney.

Since earning his degree from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego last year, the 28-year-old Gilbert has been studying for the Nevada bar exam and started the eponymous Gilbert Partners, a public relations and consulting firm based in Las Vegas, where he has been doing some grassroots work in trying to get Judge Ron Parraguirri elected to the Nevada Supreme Court.

When he hasn't been busy boning up on contract law or the legal nuances of other transactions, Gilbert, who has his hands in more pies than Betty Crocker, has been teaming with a group of Reno businessmen to help raise $4-million for the recently relocated Bishop Manogue High School—Gilbert's alma mater in Reno—in trying to "make it the best sports complex around."

But the focus isn't on making the cover of law periodicals or *Fortune* magazine for Gilbert—at least not yet. Since turning pro on June 16, 2000, with a two-round TKO of Miguel Lopez, Gilbert has committed himself to becoming a contender in the world of professional boxing, where he's racked up a record of 8-0 (7).

Gilbert's climb up boxing's ladder took an interesting twist in July, when he was invited to Hollywood to audition for NBC's reality TV show *The Contender*. While details remain unconfirmed, the show will likely involve 16 boxers—possibly in the middleweight division—with the winner to receive $1-million, an instant household name, and a target the size of the Lincoln Tunnel on his back.

Being a wanted man is nothing new to Gilbert, who first moved from Chicago to Reno when he was 11, but the implications weren't always so rewarding. At first, kids picked on him because he was the new guy in town. When he went to Bishop Manogue—a private Catholic school—the older students targeted Gilbert for other reasons: He was too short, too small, and he spoke his mind; and possibly because he was a doctor's son, one whose smile had a way of attracting girls even though he wasn't a good athlete.

"One of two things can happen when you've

(Continued on page 43)

PRO RECORD

2000		
June 16	Miguel Lopez, Reno, NV	KO 2
2001		
July 20	Tony Sanza, Reno	KO 1
2002		
June 7	Timothy Robinson, Reno	KO 4
July 26	Travis Biechler, Las Vegas	KO 1
2003		
Nov. 22	Tony Sanza, Stateline, NV	KO 1
2004		
March 27	Thomas Haines, Stateline	KO 1
April 24	Kirk Douglas, Reno	KO 4
July 10	Farid Shahid, Stateline	W 6

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DRAW	KOs
8	8	0	0	7

International Boxing Hall of Fame
Limited Autograph Souvenirs

Boxing Greats Helping Support the Museum

Certificate of Authenticity accompanies each item

EVERLAST SPEED BAG

$195

Autographed by 25 "Greats"

Arguello ★ Barkley ★ Basilio ★ Buchanan ★ Chuvalo ★ Cuevas ★ Dundee ★ Fenech ★ Fullmer ★ Griffith ★ Hagler ★ LaMotta ★ Lopez ★ McGirt ★ Nelson ★ Norton ★ Olivares ★ Ortiz ★ Palomino ★ Pryor ★ Qawi ★ Stracey ★ Tapia ★ Torres ★ Ward ★

GIANT GOLD GLOVE

$225

Autographed by 25 "Greats"

Arguello ★ Basilio ★ Buchanan ★ Chuvalo ★ Cuevas ★ Dundee ★ Fenech ★ Fullmer ★ Griffith ★ Hagler ★ LaMotta ★ Lopez ★ McGirt ★ Nelson ★ Norton ★ Olivares ★ Ortiz ★ Palomino ★ Pryor ★ Qawi ★ Stracey ★ Tapia ★ Tarver ★ Torres ★ Ward

AZUMAH NELSON

Hall of Fame Champion on Everlast glove

Class of 2004

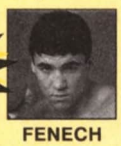
$85

★ Limited Quantity ★

NELSON & FENECH

Both champions on Everlast glove

$105



NELSON FENECH

★ Limited Quantity ★

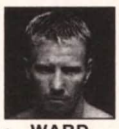
AUTOGRAPH GLOVES

$85

(single autograph on Everlast glove)

★ Earnie Shavers
★ Carmen Basilio
★ Leon Spinks
★ Michael Spinks
★ Aaron Pryor
★ Christy Martin
★ Willie Pep
★ Ken Norton
★ Virgil Hill
★ Kid Gavilan
★ Ken Buchanan
★ Alexis Arguello
★ Buddy McGirt
★ Pipino Cuevas
★ Nino Benvenuti
★ "Irish" Micky Ward
★ Carlos Palomino
★ Ricardo "Finito" Lopez
★ Sir Henry Cooper
★ Dwight Qawi
★ Tommy Morrison
★ Angelo Dundee
★ Johnny Tapia
★ Andrew Golota
★ Livingstone Bramble
★ James "Buster" Douglas
★ Danny "Little Red" Lopez

PALOMINO



WARD

MORRISON

TAPIA

COMBINATION GLOVE

(two autographs on Everlast glove)

$105

★ Basilio - Gavilan
★ Basilio - Saxton
★ Basilio - Fullmer
★ Arguello - Pryor
★ Basilio - DeMarco
★ Benvenuti - Griffith

★ Mexican Boxing Greats ★
Olivares, Cuevas, Napoles & Ricardo "Finito" Lopez on Everlast glove

TODAY'S STARS

(single autograph on Everlast glove)

$85

★ Winky Wright
★ Cory Spinks
★ Acelino "Popo" Freitas
★ Antonio "Magic Man" Tarver

CHAMPIONSHIP GLOVE

All 21 autographs on Everlast glove

$195

Arguello ★ Basilio ★ Buchanan ★ Cuevas ★ Fenech ★ Fullmer ★ Griffith ★ Hagler ★ Lopez ★ McGirt ★ Nelson ★ Norton ★ Olivares ★ Ortiz ★ Palomino ★ Pryor ★ Qawi ★ Stracey ★ Tapia ★ Torres ★ Ward ★

EVERLAST CORNER POST

$275

Autographed by 25 greats:

Arguello ★ Barkley ★ Basilio ★ Buchanan ★ Chuvalo ★ Cuevas ★ Dundee ★ Fenech ★ Fullmer ★ Griffith ★ Hagler ★ Lopez ★ McGirt ★ Nelson ★ Norton ★ Olivares ★ Ortiz ★ Palomino ★ Pryor ★ Qawi ★ Stracey ★ Tapia ★ Tarver ★ Torres ★ Ward ★

BOXING ROBE

25 autographs on Everlast robe

$275

Arguello ★ Barkley ★ Basilio ★ Buchanan ★ Chuvalo ★ Cuevas ★ Dundee ★ Fenech ★ Fullmer ★ Griffith ★ Hagler ★ LaMotta ★ Lopez ★ McGirt ★ Nelson ★ Norton ★ Olivares ★ Ortiz ★ Palomino ★ Pryor ★ Qawi ★ Stracey ★ Tapia ★ Torres ★ Ward

HEAVYWEIGHT GLOVE

6 heavyweight autographs on Everlast glove

★ James "Buster" Douglas
★ Ken Norton
★ Leon Spinks
★ Sir Henry Cooper
★ George Chuvalo
★ Earnie Shavers

$150

Phone Orders: (315) 697-7095
Fax (315) 697-5356

Make checks payable to:
BOXING HALL OF FAME
1 Hall of Fame Drive
Canastota, NY 13032

Please add 8.25% Sales Tax and $8.00 per item for shipping in U.S.
Call for International shipping rates

TRINIDAD VS. MAYORGA

COMEBACK OR CALAMITY?

20 Experts Analyze "Tito's" Return To The Ring

Compiled by Joe Santoliquito

In one of the most highly anticipated comebacks in recent years, Felix Trinidad returns to action at Madison Square Garden on October 2, and in the opposite corner will be former welterweight champion Ricardo Mayorga, one of the game's most volatile wildcards. It's a match that pits a hard-hitting but rusty legend against a brawling maverick who has already pulled off one of the biggest upsets of the first decade of 21st century.

Mayorga is a true eccentric who moves forward, flinging punches from wild angles, frequently bending the rules in his all-out effort to inflict bodily harm. He also has a strong chin and a brash confidence that often borders on the foolhardy. What we don't know about Mayorga is how the chain-smoking, beer-guzzling Nicaraguan will react in his first fight against a world-class middleweight. Mayorga, 26-4-1 (22) with 1 no-contest, defeated Vernon Forrest twice and also held his own in losing a disputed decision to current welterweight champion Cory Spinks. But those fights were at 147 pounds. In his last fight, for which he weighed 155, Mayorga looked lackluster decisioning relative unknown Eric Mitchell.

The bigger mystery lies with "Tito." Which version of the Hall of Fame-bound fighter will show up at the Garden, the Tito of old, or a rusty, apprehensive version who will instantly regret ignoring the failed comebacks of so many greats before him?

On and off over the last two years, Trinidad, 41-1 (34), dangled the comeback possibility in front of the media and his legion of ardent fans. Then in early-'04, he finally confirmed the rumors and announced his return. October 2 will mark his first time in the professional prize ring since May 11, 2002, when he stopped Hassine Cherifi in four rounds. If, however, you choose to discount the Cherifi fight as nothing more than an easy farewell fight in Puerto Rico, that means it's been three full years since Trinidad has fought someone dangerous. That, of course, was when he suffered his only loss, against Bernard Hopkins, on September 29, 2001.

Most experts believe Trinidad's layoff will have some effect on him, but the question is whether the effect will be great enough to allow Mayorga to spring another upset. THE RING polled 20 experts to find out who they think will win the Trinidad-Mayorga match, and just about the only thing they all agreed on is that fists will fly and fans will be entertained.

LEM SATTERFIELD (*Baltimore **Sun** boxing writer*): "Trinidad will win, but I think it's a dangerous fight for him. He's a better boxer than Mayorga, and I still believe he has punching power. Mayorga has no defense and gets hit too much. Mayorga will get too cocky, and guys get knocked out when they try to knock Trinidad out. I like Trinidad by knockout."

TIM SMITH (*New York **Daily News** boxing writer*): "If Trinidad had stayed busy and hadn't retired, this would have been a such a simple fight for him. But Trinidad has been off for a few years, making it a tricky fight for him. Mayorga is far from a boxer, so no one is going to confuse him with Sugar Ray Robinson. I see Trinidad coming out ahead, despite the fact that he's been off for two years. Mayorga has the ability to knock Trinidad

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

PHOTO BY DUANE LONG

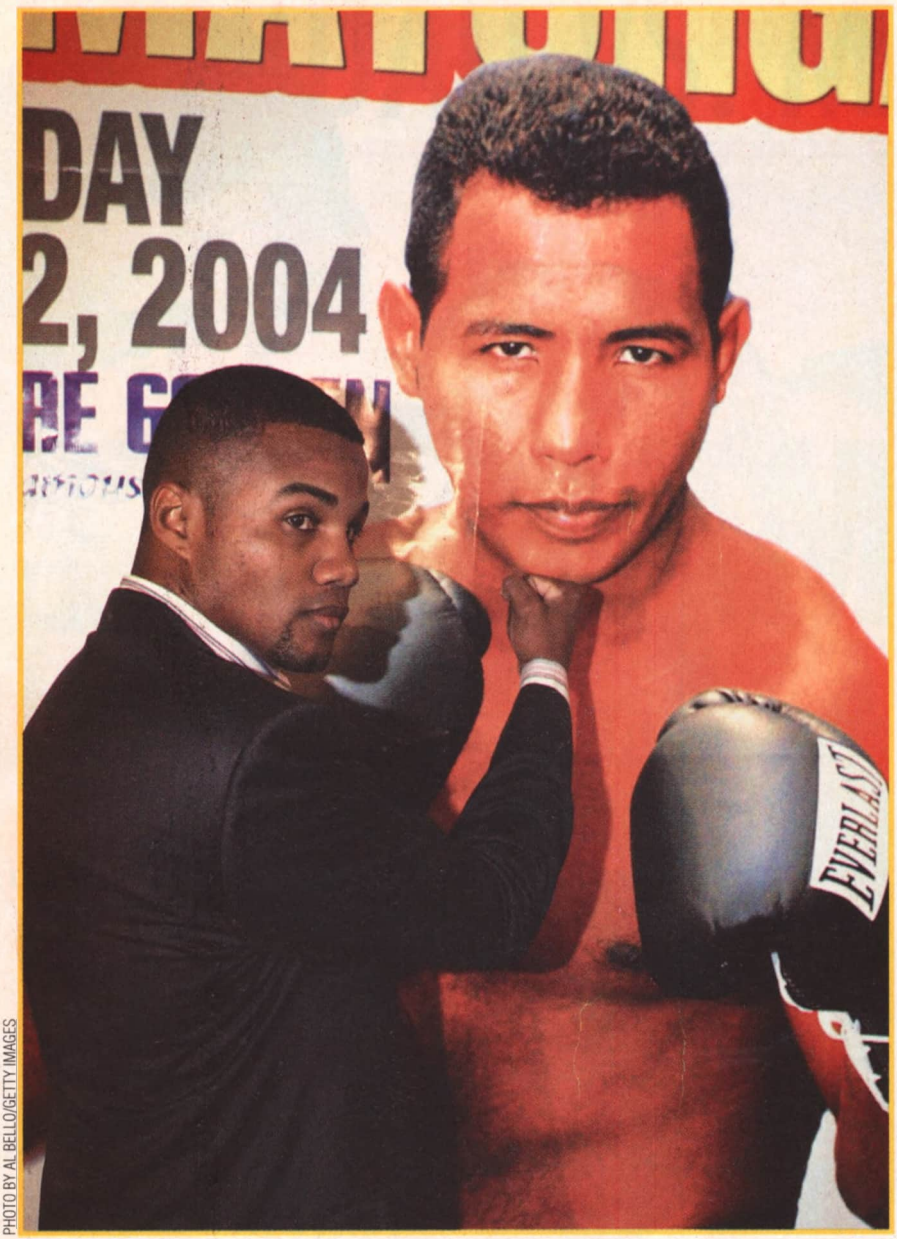


PHOTO BY AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

Will Trinidad be able to shake off two years of ring rust to sock Mayorga as easily as he hit this poster of him? We'll find out the answer on October 2 when they collide at Madison Square Garden.

out, but I don't know if Mayorga has the skill level to be in position to get it done. Trinidad would have to make a big mistake to lose, because other than that, I see no way Mayorga can get to Trinidad. I see a late stoppage for Trinidad."

TONY PAIGE (*radio host for New York's WFAN 660 AM*): "It will be a sell-out, first of all, because a lot of Latin fans will show up. But I think Mayorga was exposed in the Cory Spinks fight, and if Trinidad doesn't get caught in the machismo of Mayorga, he'll win. Trinidad will box Mayorga and stop him late."

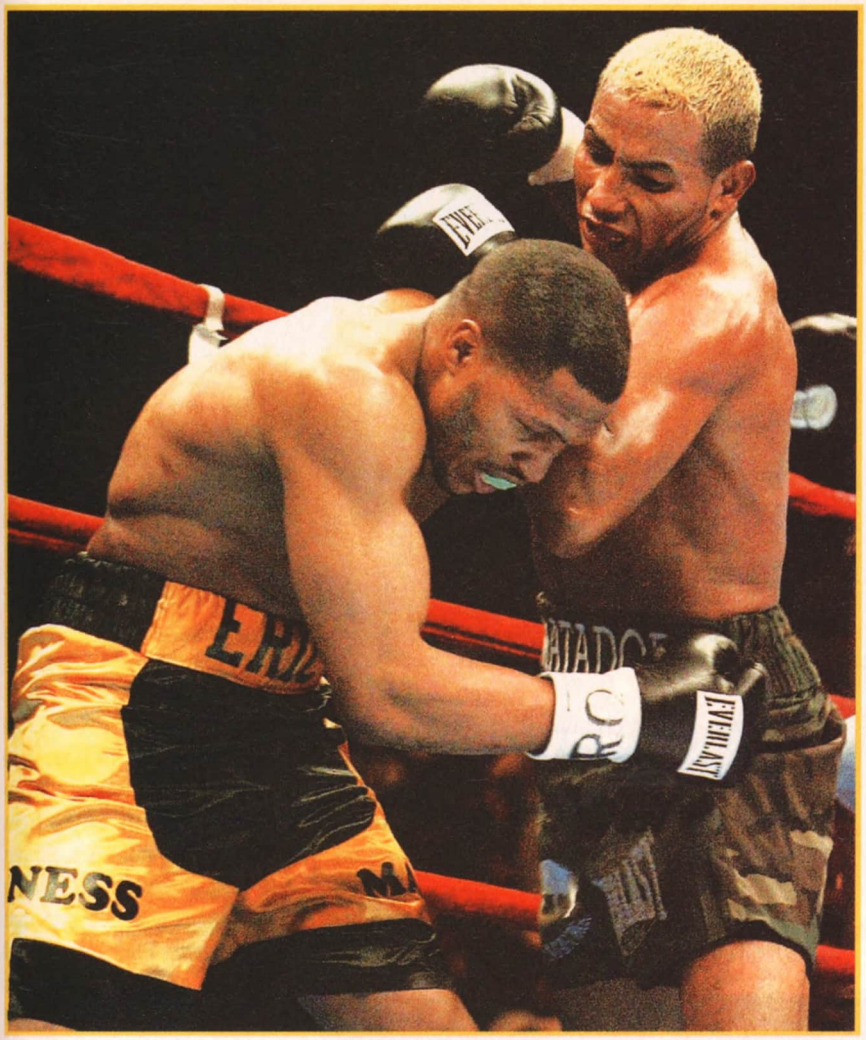
DON CHARGIN (*Hall of Fame promoter*): "I like Trinidad. I think he's too big and strong for Mayorga. Trinidad is an all-around fighter, and Mayorga is too one-dimensional for me. Starting with the second Vernon Forrest fight, I found that Mayorga is a rough guy, but not a great fighter. I think Trinidad will win by a decision."

CARLOS ARIAS (***Orange County Register*** *boxing writer*): "It's going to be a fun fight. Anything involving Mayorga, there is bound to be action. The guy is so unpredictable and throws such wild shots. And Tito is just coming back, stepping basically from his couch to fighting one of the most dangerous guys in the world. That's what makes this fight so interesting. It should be a nonstop action fight. It's tough to pick this one. I have to think if Tito gets himself in shape, he has much better talent, and we know he can punch, so I like Tito. The only question is Tito's chin. He has been stopped. Can Tito get in, land enough damaging punches to get respect, then get out of there? I think he can. I would have to say it's going to be a decision for Tito."

KEITH IDEC (*[New Jersey]* ***Herald News*** *boxing writer*): "I'm probably in the minority, but I think Mayorga is going to knock him out. The last physical fighter that Trinidad fought, Bernard Hopkins, dominated him. It will be more than three years since the last time Trinidad was in a competitive fight, because I don't count the Hassine Cherifi fight. Mayorga may also be the biggest puncher Trinidad has fought. I say Mayorga by fifth-round knockout."

FRANKLIN McNEIL (***Newark Star-Ledger*** *boxing writer*): "Under normal circumstances, this would be an easy fight to pick. Trinidad would have won easily without the layoff. How Trinidad responds to being hit after a two-year layoff will be the key. But Mayorga has so many holes, and leaves himself wide open, Trinidad will take advantage of that. Plus, Mayorga's not a middleweight, and Trinidad won't be intimidated by all of Mayorga's talk. If Trinidad hadn't taken off for such a long time, I would say Trinidad by knockout. But I'll say Trinidad by decision."

JIM LAMPLEY (*HBO blow-by-blow announcer*): "I think that Trinidad and his father had articulated a strategy of coming back directly to a big fight, and they got remarkably lucky that the flow of business took them to Mayorga, instead of Shane Mosley or Oscar De La Hoya, who are both far better boxers than Mayorga. Trinidad, even if rusty, still seems to be far better at his craft than Mayorga. But Mayorga is surely a threat, and he is dangerous, though he's going in with a guy



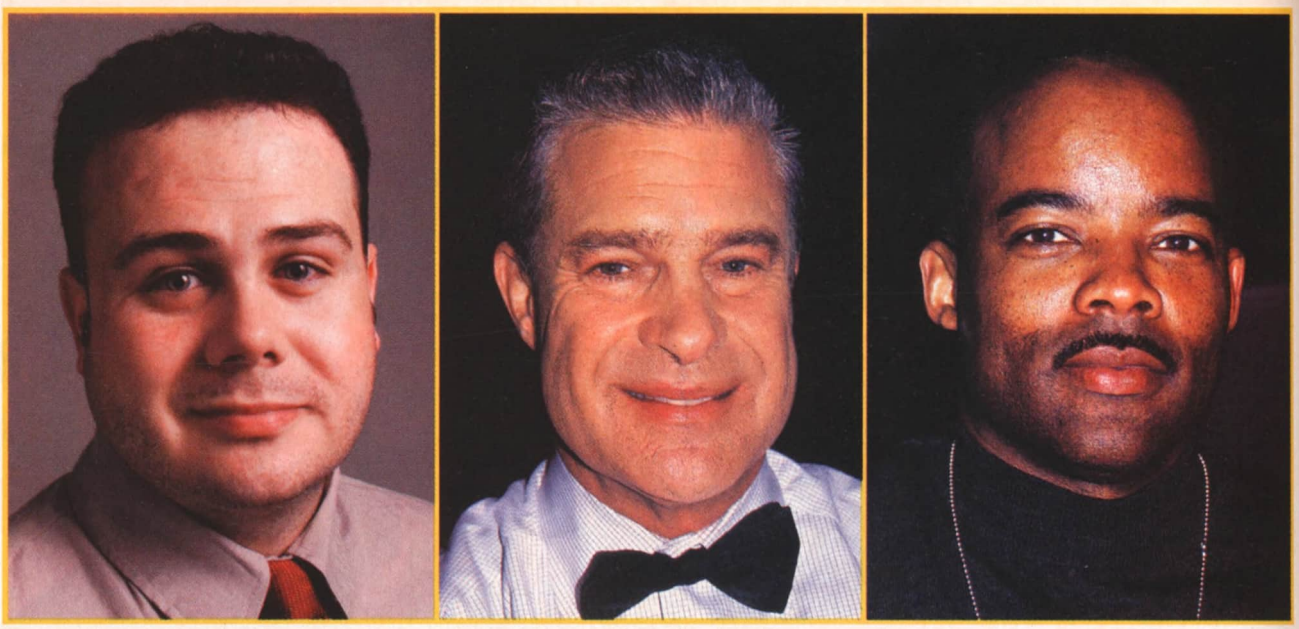
Mayorga's unorthodox punching angles could cause Trinidad some trouble, but on the flipside, "El Matador" may be at a disadvantage because he's moving up from welterweight. For his last fight, Mayorga weighed a career-high 155 pounds and struggled in beating Eric Mitchell (pictured).

who is bigger and sturdier than Vernon Forrest. I like Felix to win a shootout in the seventh or eighth round. I think Trinidad will start out boxing, just to get Mayorga frustrated. Trinidad should be able to land first in toe-to-toe exchanges with Mayorga, but the danger in all of this is that Trinidad's so rusty, he could be overwhelmed. Still, I don't see that happening."

SANTOS PEREZ (*Miami Herald boxing writer*): "It's been two years since Trinidad fought, but Trinidad is the more skilled fighter. Mayorga is about going to war every time. Trinidad has proven he can win the championship rounds. I'm leaning toward Trinidad. He's polished and experienced enough to ward off the type of attack he can expect from Mayorga."

GEORGE WILLIS (*New York Post boxing writer*): "I'm picking Trinidad by eighth-round knockout. Mayorga has been exposed as a fighter with more bark than bite. He doesn't have skills to contend with even a rusty Trinidad."

WALLY MATTHEWS (*columnist for the* ***New York Sun*** *and radio host for New York's 1050 AM):* "I think it's a good fight and a tough fight for a Trinidad comeback. Mayorga is very unschooled; he's basically an amateur with two bricks. He's still a dangerous fight for Trinidad, considering the time Trinidad had off. I like Trinidad though, just because he'll do the right thing and keep Mayorga away. Fighting at 160 works in Trinidad's favor. Mayorga is an aggressive, unpredictable guy, but Trinidad wins by decision."



Keith Idec (left), boxing writer for the **Herald News**, *is one of the few who believes Mayorga will defeat Trinidad. HBO's Jim Lampley (center) and* **New York Post** *boxing writer George Willis (right) represent the majority view, that Trinidad's superior skills will lead him to victory over Mayorga.*

DAN RAFAEL (*USA Today boxing writer*): "It's hard to pick against Trinidad, even though he has been off for over two years. I think when Trinidad retired, he didn't do it because he was a shot fighter or he was totally used up; I believe he still has something left in the tank. Besides Mayorga's two impressive wins over Vernon Forrest, there is no one else on his resume that makes me think he can stay with someone like Trinidad. Everything just adds up to Trinidad. But it should be an exciting fight because these guys only fight one way."

EMANUEL STEWARD (*Hall of Fame trainer and manager and HBO color analyst*): "I like Mayorga. I think Trinidad's inactivity is a big factor, and Mayorga is a good puncher who seems to maintain his punching power as the fight goes on. Trinidad blocks punches well, but his whole body gets wrapped up blocking punches. He misjudges a punch and that leaves him off-balance. There is a good possibility of a knockout. This is all about styles and I put a lot of value on the inactivity."

The last time Trinidad faced a top opponent was against Bernard Hopkins in September 2001, when Tito suffered his only pro defeat. Going three years without being in the ring in a truly competitive situation could have an adverse effect on Trinidad when he returns against the hard-punching Mayorga.

OZELL NELSON (*trainer of middleweight contender Jermain Taylor*): "I was kind of shocked to hear that Trinidad was fighting Mayorga. It's a dangerous fight. I have to lean toward Trinidad to win, but only as a slight favorite. With these two guys, someone is going to get knocked out. Trinidad has more boxing skills, so I see him knocking out Mayorga."

KASSIM OUMA (*junior middleweight contender*): "Trinidad is a better boxer than Mayorga, and Mayorga is a guy coming up from 147 pounds to fight against a bigger guy. Trinidad will be the naturally stronger

In the end, most experts agree that it will be Mayorga trying to pick himself up off the canvas against Trinidad, much like Hassine Cherifi had to in his fight against Tito in '02. It's doubtful, though, that Mayorga will go as quietly as Cherifi did.

guy. Mayorga is a strong guy, too, but he hasn't fought anyone as good as Trinidad. I don't know if it will be a knockout or a decision, but I think Trinidad will win."

BERNARDO OSUNA (Telefutura ***Solo Boxeo*** *broadcaster*): "The fight, being that it's at a heavier weight, will be in favor of Tito Trinidad. He'll be rusty coming back from the long layoff, but he'll still have his power. And with the weight being 160, we haven't seen Mayorga there, leaving a lot of questions about him heading into this fight. Despite the rustiness, Tito Trinidad will come out ahead. This is a more important fight to him, because it could earn him another shot at Hopkins for redemption or De La Hoya for millions."

MAX KELLERMAN (*FOX Sports Net boxing analyst*): "This is one of those fights where boxing fans go around explaining why boxing is better than other sports. Mayorga can take a punch and he can really punch, and Trinidad's chin has always been a question mark. Trinidad's layoff makes Mayorga that much more dangerous. With that being said, you have to like Trinidad because he's a different class of fighter than what Mayorga's faced. Trinidad was exposed by Bernard Hopkins as somewhat mechanical, but being exposed by Hopkins is like Barry Bonds being exposed by Randy Johnson. I like Trinidad to pick himself up off the canvas and stop Mayorga."

WINKY WRIGHT (*world junior middleweight champion*): "It will be an exciting fight, because Mayorga is an exciting fighter, but Tito is a much more polished boxer and he's a bigger guy, so he should win if the ring rust doesn't get to him. Mayorga likes to rush straight in, so I see Tito picking him apart and winning by a late-round knockout."

GRAHAM HOUSTON (*American correspondent for Britain's* ***Boxing Monthly***): "I like Trinidad to win the fight. One key is that Mayorga was fighting at 147 not that long ago. Trinidad just has to get out of those first couple of wild rounds. When Tito is really on, he throws good, accurate punches and has better skills than Mayorga. Trinidad outpoints Mayorga, but it will be a hard fought fight. Tito wins by coming on strong down the stretch."

RICH MAROTTA (*host of* ***Neutral Corner*** *on Los Angeles' XTRA 690/1150 AM*): "I don't know how many people like Mayorga, but I'm one of the few. I think he's going to surprise Trinidad, and I think people are going to be surprised by the lack of sharpness from Trinidad. Mayorga is the most unusual and difficult fighter in the world to face today because of his awkward style. I expect him to throw punches from all angles, and I believe he'll wear Trinidad down and knock out or stop Trinidad somewhere around the 10th round. Trinidad's layoff is going to be a great difference."

TOTALS: Trinidad 17, Mayorga 3 ■

VITALI KLITSCHKO vs. THE TOP 10

Is There Anyone Who Can Dethrone The New Champ?

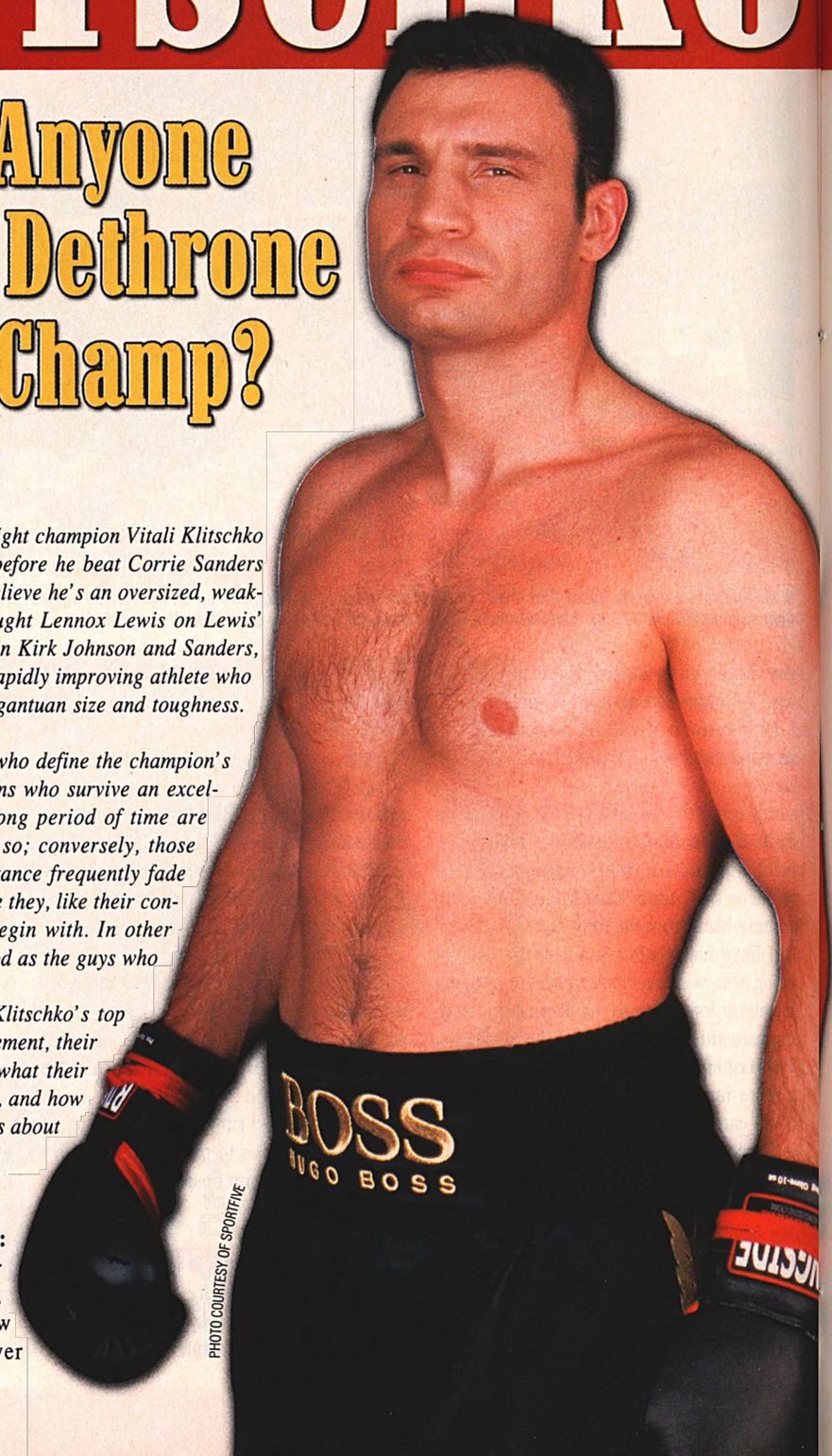


PHOTO COURTESY OF SPORTFIVE

By William Dettloff

What you think about heavyweight champion Vitali Klitschko probably was decided long before he beat Corrie Sanders to win the title. Either you believe he's an oversized, weak-willed, and awkward clubber who caught Lennox Lewis on Lewis' worst night, then beat two pretenders in Kirk Johnson and Sanders, or you believe he's a strong, modern, rapidly improving athlete who will dominate the division with his gargantuan size and toughness. There's little in-between with this guy.

But ultimately, it's the challengers who define the champion's place. With a few exceptions, champions who survive an excellent division for even a moderately long period of time are viewed highly by history, and rightly so; conversely, those whose divisions are void of real substance frequently fade from important memory largely because they, like their contenders, never were very special to begin with. In other words, most champions are only as good as the guys who challenge them.

In this feature, THE RING looks at Klitschko's top 10 contenders and examines their placement, their chances at getting a shot at the title, what their challenge would mean to the box office, and how the fight would turn out. What it all says about Klitschko we'll let history decide.

1. Chris Byrd 37-2-1 (20)

Why He's Ranked Where He Is: Wins over David Tua (W 12), Evander Holyfield (W 12), Fres Oquendo (W 12), an exciting draw against reborn Andrew Golota, and an April 2000 win over Klitschko (KO 9) make Byrd the top contender.

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Chris Byrd had a surprisingly difficult time with Andrew Golota in April and had to settle for a draw, but his overall track record still makes him Klitschko's number-one contender. And Byrd's upset win over Klitschko in 2000 helps make a world title rematch marketable.

His Chances At Getting A Shot: Byrd has a decent chance. Klitschko would love to avenge that loss and Byrd has been riding Don King very hard for a big fight, or, failing that, one that will bring him a decent payday. This would satisfy both requirements.

Box Office Bust Or Blockbuster? The revenge factor gives HBO a chance to market this into a pay-per-view and might compensate for Byrd's lack of market appeal. Still, it's not a huge seller.

What Happens In The Fight: There's a reason Klitschko was ahead on the cards in the first fight by scores of 89-82 and 88-83 (twice) and there's little reason to think things would go differently this time, provided Klitschko's rotator cuffs hold up. Klitschko by unanimous decision.

2. John Ruiz 40-5-1 (28)

Why He's Ranked Where He Is: Just when we thought Roy Jones had rid us of him forever, Ruiz came up with quality wins over Hasim Rahman (W 12) and Fres Oquendo (KO 11). You have to give him credit for that.

His Chances At Getting A Shot: Forget it. Pretty soon Mike Tyson will be with King and looking for a title to win. Either Ruiz or Lamon Brewster will get the call.

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Hasim Rahman and John Ruiz trade heavy shots in their December '03 bout in Atlantic City. Even though Ruiz won that fight by unanimous decision and is currently ranked higher, former world champion Rahman might have the better chance of unseating Klitschko.

Box Office Bust Or Blockbuster? Klitschko-Ruiz is a pretty good sell if it's at Madison Square Garden: Ukraines on one side of the arena, half of Puerto Rico on the other. No one else would care very much, but the Garden would be alive that night.

What Happens In The Fight: To beat Ruiz you either have to have very quick hands so you can land before he ties you up (the way Roy Jones did) or be stronger than Ruiz and be a sharp enough hitter to hurt him as he lunges in. Klitschko is the latter, and he wins by kayo within six rounds.

3. James Toney 67-4-2 (43)

Why He's Ranked Where He Is: It's not so much that Toney beat Evander Holyfield (KO 9), but *how* he beat him. He was mesmerizing. And though it was at cruiserweight and doesn't really count toward his heavyweight ranking, the win over Vassiliy Jirov (W 12) was spectacular, too.

His Chances At Getting A Shot: Unlikely. It looks better when you remember that Toney isn't aligned with King, but we just don't see Klitschko taking a chance against a 35-year-old cutie who could make him look awful.

Box Office Bust Or Blockbuster? This is a mid-level heavyweight title fight—interesting because of the David vs. Goliath angle, but unlikely to cross over to the mainstream and rack up huge PPV sales.

What Happens In The Fight: If Toney were just three or four inches taller, we'd pick him to slice Klitschko up and stop him in seven or eight rounds. But even Holyfield made Toney look small. Toney is too good not to get his licks in and would make it fun, but in the end the size difference would just be too much. Klitschko by close, unpopular decision.

4. Hasim Rahman 38-5-1 (31)

Why He's Ranked Where He Is: Since his dreadful waltz against Ruiz (L 12), Rahman has fought frequently, albeit against C-level competition, beating Al Cole (W 10), Mario Cawley (KO 2), and Rob Calloway (KO 2). In a weak heavyweight division, that activity has been enough to keep "The Rock" near the top.

His Chances At Getting A Shot: As we went to press it appeared Rahman was working toward a rematch with Ruiz. Failing that, a Klitschko fight could happen, as Rahman still has some name value thanks to his upset of Lennox Lewis.

Box Office Bust Or Blockbuster? There's no attractive angle that would turn this fight into something other than what it would be: an interesting matchup between two big guys for the heavyweight title.

What Happens In The Fight: Rahman has been inconsistent at the top levels of the division, but styles make fights. We think his stiff, heavy jab and physical strength would serve him well against Klitschko. In an upset, Rahman, on cuts, late.

5. Monte Barrett 30-3 (16)

Why He's Ranked Where He Is: After barely running out of rounds against Joe Mesi (L 10), Barrett performed extremely well against highly touted Dominick Guinn (W 10), looking little like the guy who labored to wins over Eric Kirkland (KO 10) and Robert Wiggins (W 10).

His Chances At Getting A Shot: Barrett is in a very good position. He's known to HBO audiences because of his fights with Mesi and Guinn, but he's not so good that Klitschko should have any reservations about fighting him. And, he's not aligned with Don King.

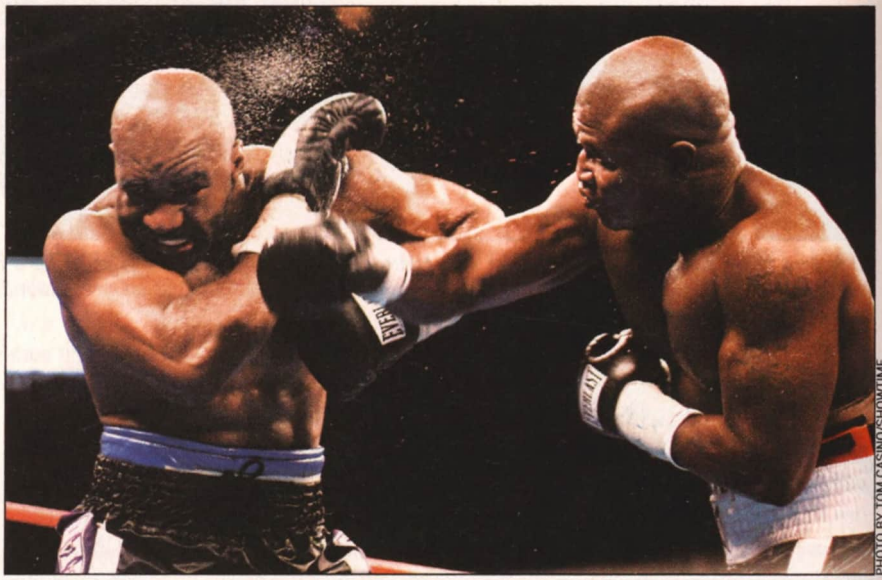


PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

James Toney only has one noteworthy win at heavyweight, but he was so spectacular against Evander Holyfield that he's now one of Klitschko's top contenders. Would Toney's size disadvantage be too much to overcome, however, against the champ?

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

A surprise recent entrant in the heavyweight sweepstakes, Monte Barrett might just get a shot at Klitschko in December. But if Barrett's fight against Wladimir Klitschko four years ago is any indication, "Two Gunz" won't fare well against Vitali.

Box Office Bust Or Blockbuster? This is a perfect first or second title defense for Klitschko, one that will bring his fans out and give them something to holler about. It's not anything close to a pay-per-view, but would pull decent numbers for HBO.

What Happens In The Fight: Klitschko is too strong and too sharp a hitter for Barrett. Remember how Wladimir destroyed Barrett a few years ago? About the same thing here: Klitschko by bloody kayo in 10 or less.

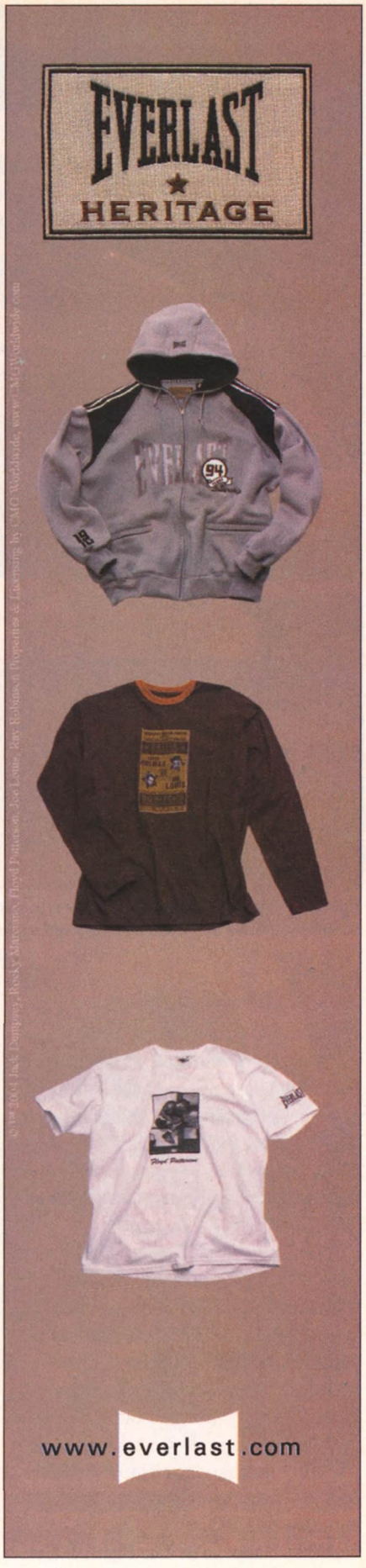


PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Lamon Brewster outlasted little brother Wladimir in April '04 and scored a shocking fifth-round TKO win, setting up a possible revenge fight for Vitali. But it seems more likely that Don King will position Brewster to fight Mike Tyson instead.

6. Andrew Golota 38-4-1 (31) with 1 no-contest

Why He's Ranked Where He Is: There's only one reason Golota is here—his surprisingly composed and disciplined performance against Byrd (D 12). It was the best Golota we've seen in years, and in today's heavyweight division, one showing like that goes a long way.

His Chances At Getting A Shot: King has plans for Golota that don't involve Klitschko, if Golota manages to unseat Ruiz in a proposed WBA title fight. What plans? A rematch with Mike Tyson.

Box Office Bust Or Blockbuster? Golota's had a checkered career to say the least, but his fans are a loud, loyal lot. So too are Klitschko's. It could either be a decent selling pay-per-view or a huge ratings draw on HBO.

What Happens In The Fight: If Golota keeps his head together and fights clean, he beats Klitschko. He has much better skills and he's just as strong. But history tells us he wouldn't keep his head together. He'd lose it and the fight along with it, by mid-round surrender or DQ.

7. Fres Oquendo 24-3 (15)

Why He's Ranked Where He Is: For a guy who's 2-3 in his last five fights, Oquendo is doing well. With different judges he easily could have upset Byrd (L 12) and was in his fights against David Tua (KO by 9) and Ruiz (KO by 11) before getting stopped.

His Chances At Getting A Shot: Oquendo is another guy who is well-known enough for Klitschko to fight, but who, from a physical and stylistic standpoint, presents Klitschko with little risk. That gives him a decent chance, but he'd probably need to win a big fight first, or at least a medium one.

Box Office Bust Or Blockbuster? Not much for anyone to get excited about here. There's no side story. Some ethnicity-based marketability, but even there, Ruiz is the better Hispanic heavyweight. Ho-hum.

What Happens In The Fight: Oquendo's mobility and awkward strength would give Klitschko problems early, but Klitschko's strength and pressure would wear him down. Oquendo gets caught late again. Klitschko by kayo anytime after the eighth.

8. Lamon Brewster 30-2 (27)

Why He's Ranked Where He Is: Brewster's never beaten anyone else close to the top 10, but his win over Wladimir Klitschko (KO 5) was huge.

His Chances At Getting A Shot: His chances at getting a shot with Tyson are wonderful. Brewster is King's go-to guy. A shot at Klitschko? Only if Brewster somehow falls out of the Tyson sweepstakes.

Box Office Bust Or Blockbuster? This

would be one of Klitschko's more marketable defenses: Revenge of the Brother, yet again. Is it a pay-per-view fight? Probably not. But it has a good story and would appeal to a lot of fans.

What Happens In The Fight: We could envision Brewster shutting down and trying to outlast Vitali the way he did Wladimir, but that wouldn't work—Vitali would bide his time. But we get the sense Brewster, who is sturdy and has good skills, would fight a smart, controlled fight, score well inside, and do just enough to get a close decision in a big upset.

9. Jameel McCline 31-3-1 (19)

Why He's Ranked Where He Is: McCline is 3-0 since falling to little brother Wladimir (KO by 10), beating second-raters Charles Shufford (KO 3), Cedric Boswell (KO 10), and Wayne Llewelyn (KO 1).

His Chances At Getting A Shot: If a proposed fight with Byrd falls through, McCline has a decent chance. He's big, personable, not entangled legally with anyone, and overall a very reasonable challenger. A win over a top-10 or 12 guy wouldn't hurt, though.

Box Office Bust Or Blockbuster? The loss to Wladimir took a lot of the luster off McCline, but this could be built into a kind of revenge fight for him. It's not a huge fight, but if marketed the right way could do decent numbers.

What Happens In The Fight: Like Golota, McCline has the size, strength, and skills to whip Klitschko. He just doesn't have the confidence. He'd make Klitschko eat his jab all night, but be too cautious to do anything else and drop a unanimous decision.

10. Joe Mesi 29-0 (25)

Why He's Ranked Where He Is: Mesi is here on the strength of his wins over DaVarryl Williamson (KO 1), Monte Barrett (W 10), and Vassiliy Jirov (W 10). The latter two were both fairly disastrous, but they were legit victories.

His Chances At Getting A Shot: Provided Mesi is medically cleared, he and his guys are hoping that Tyson sees him as an easy fight and comes to Buffalo for what would be a huge event. If there's any movement in that area, there's no chance for Mesi-Klitschko. If not, this could very easily happen.

Box Office Bust Or Blockbuster? Put this fight in Buffalo and it's huge. Not the event that a Mesi-Tyson fight would be, but huge just the same.

What Happens In The Fight: If Barrett and Jirov hurt and floored Mesi, what would Klitschko do? Knock him out. If Mesi truly shouldn't be fighting, this could be over in a hurry. If that's not the case, it could take a few rounds—Mesi is awkwardly mobile and not a bad combination puncher. But his chin is soft, and Klitschko's too strong for him. He stops Mesi in eight rounds. ■

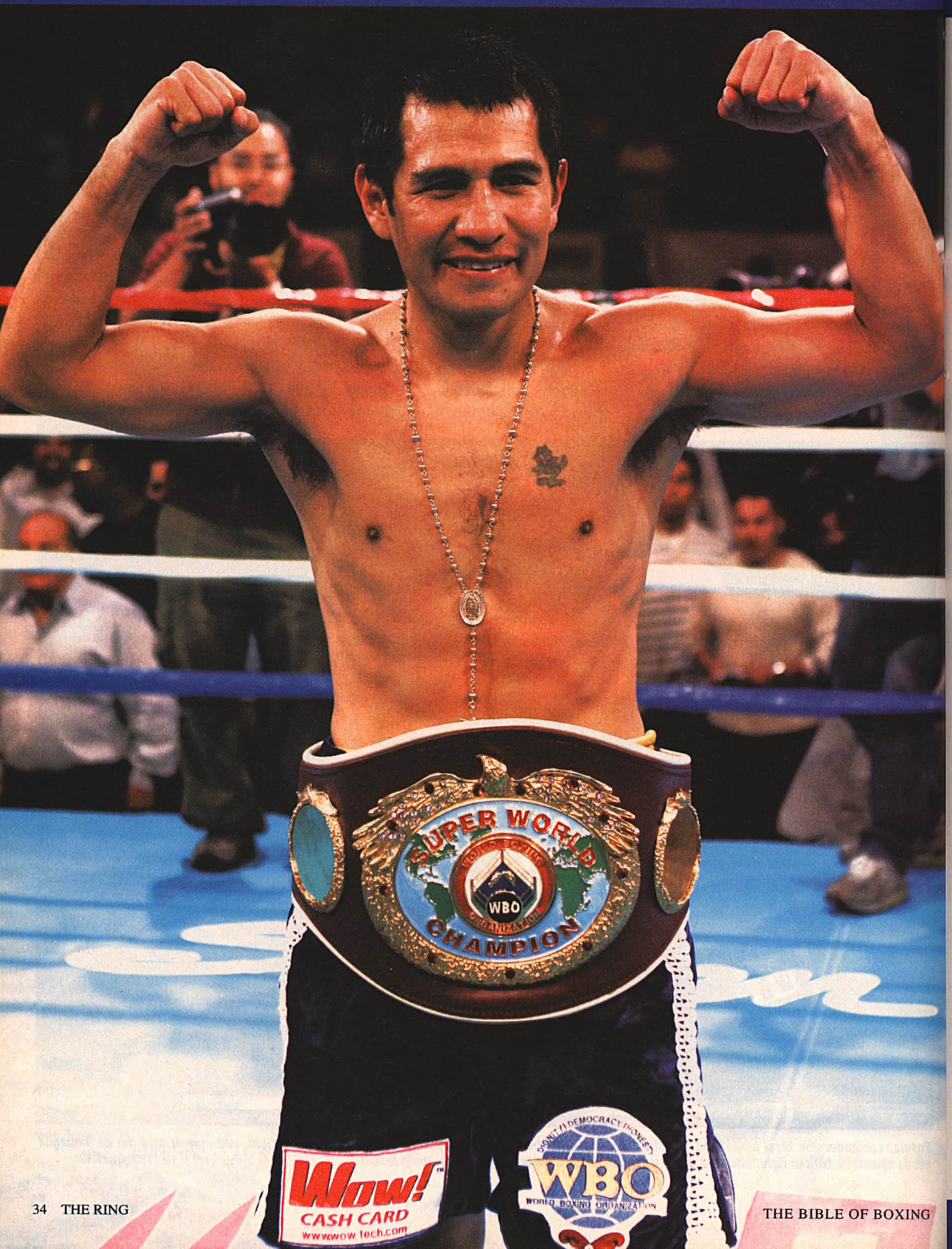
PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

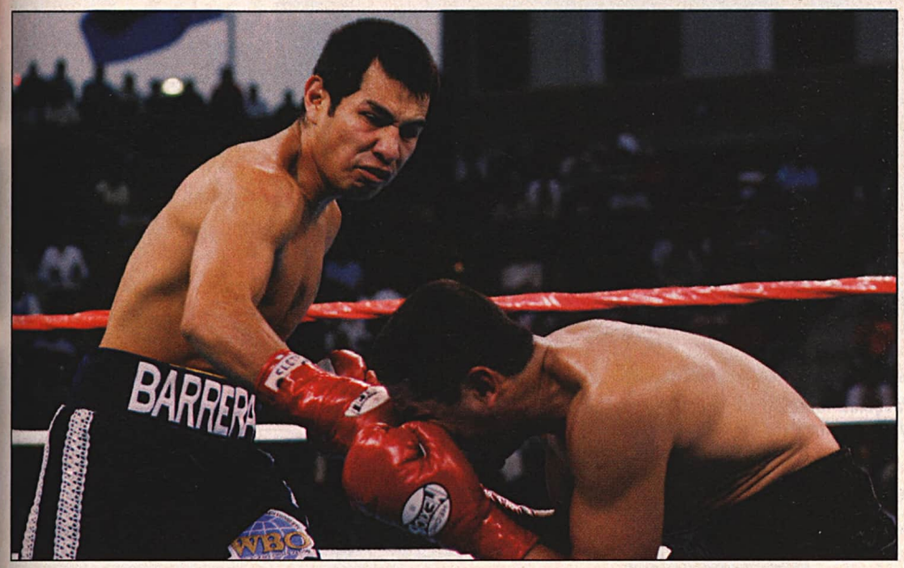
Popular contender Joe Mesi outpointed Vassiliy Jirov in March, but he was dropped three times late in the fight, and may or may not be damaged goods now. If he is fit to fight, however, Mesi is just the kind of opponent Klitschko would love.

As Bad As He Looked Against Pac-Man ...

Or As Good As He Looked Against Ayala?

WHICH IS THE REAL BARRERA?





A happy-looking Barrera (opposite page) is back on the winning track after stopping Paulie Ayala (above), but questions remain about Barerra's future, especially his ability to avenge the loss to Manny Pacquiao.

By Ivan Goldman
PHOTOS BY WILL HART/HBO

"Rumors of my death have been greatly exaggerated"
—Samuel Clemens

Clemens, a.k.a. author Mark Twain, could just as well have been describing the career of Marco Antonio Barrera. It's a career that's been pronounced dead on multiple occasions, most recently last November, when THE RING featherweight champ was easily manhandled and stopped by the new champion, Filipino phenom Manny Pacquiao.

But in his very next outing, Barrera, at age 30, meted out a methodical beating to tenacious Paulie Ayala, proving once again that it was too soon to write his boxing obituary. The victory placed Barrera right back into the formidable featherweight mix.

"I felt really, really good in there," he said, "really comfortable. It shows that I'm back. In November, I just had a bad night."

Barrera, 58-4 (41), craves a rematch with Pacquiao, as do his fans. His legacy demands it. His promoter and HBO say they're all for it. A second match must happen. It will happen.

But several weeks after the Ayala contest, Barrera's next move was still a question mark. Complicating the picture was Pac-Man's still-unfinished business with Juan Manuel Marquez, who fought him to a disputed draw in Las Vegas. And of course Erik Morales, with one win and one loss against his arch-rival Barrera, is yet another possible opponent for Barrera. With so much to do, Barrera doesn't have time to be washed up.

Kery Davis, HBO's boxing chieftain, pointed out that though the specifics have yet to be worked out, terrific matches lay ahead.

"The bottom line," Davis said, "is we have four guys here (Barrera, Pacquiao, Marquez, and Morales), and by early next year we want some combination of all four of them fighting each other. Whatever direction they choose to go, we support."

But even though Barrera fought with polished ferocity against Ayala, 35-3 (12), the fact remains that he was shockingly ineffective against Pacquiao. He looked so ordinary, folks were quick to say Barrera had fought one war too many, that he was a machine that could no longer be fixed.

But just as one 11th-round stoppage by Pacquiao didn't mean Barrera was definitively finished, one win over Ayala didn't certify that he was the same world-beater of old. Perhaps Barrera was really on top of his game again. Or perhaps Ayala, who didn't look much like the southpaw

This is only one of the 309 punches Pacquiao landed, according to CompuBox, during his devastating defeat of Barrera in November 2003. It was one of the few times in his career that Barrera was totally outclassed.

punching machine he's been throughout his career, was ready to be taken. Or perhaps that's just the way their styles matched up.

In the postfight news conference, Ayala, 34, came as close to announcing his retirement as a fighter can get without announcing his retirement. "I'm going to talk to my wife, Leti," he said. "Then I'm going to pray. I don't want to wind up a punching bag." The next week, Ayala made his retirement official.

Comparing Barrera to Morales, who decisioned him in November 2002, the candid Ayala said, "Erik Morales is a harder puncher, but Barrera really goes hard to the body, and it really bothered me."

The saga of Barrera includes more than just resurrections. He's also been two different fighters. The first one turned pro in 1989 at age 15, weighing in at 111 pounds. He was a pure slugger, wading inside and throwing big shots to the body and head. He also tended to square up, daring his opponents to trade. In February 1996, Barrera absorbed lots of big right hands as he stopped tough Kennedy McKinney in their historic junior featherweight war. Four fights later, he lost back-to-back bouts with slick Junior Jones. Experts concluded his rocket had flared out for good.

But in April 2001, a brand-new Barrera, a polished boxer with a terrific jab, decisioned slugger Naseem Hamed. Losing a close slugfest to Morales in 2000, Barrera was a puncher. Winning the close rematch in 2002, Barrera was a polished boxer. But against Pacquiao, he was neither boxer nor puncher. He was pure loser, getting beaten to the punch time and again and knocked to the canvas twice.

So in June 2004, with more than 5,700 in attendance at the Home Depot Center in Carson, California, Barrera climbed out of his coffin again and gave his fans what they wanted to see—a clever boxer-puncher who wins.

Although Ayala kept moving his head, Barrera kept finding it, and much of the time Ayala, renowned for his busy style, just couldn't get off. Ayala won a round or two, but the direction of the fight became increasingly clear as it wore on. Orthodox fighters tend to have a hard time hooking southpaws to the body. But Barrera, mixing up his punches, seemed to have a homing device on his left hooks to the liver. He also slammed Ayala repeatedly with right uppercuts to the chin.

Ayala went down twice in round eight. The second time, badly hurt, he wisely took a knee. In round 10, Ayala, way behind, sank to the canvas after getting tagged with a big combination. Referee Pat Russell signaled it was over at the 2:34 mark. Eight years earlier, it was Russell who'd decided McKinney had taken enough from Barrera.

"In that last knockdown," Ayala said, "he caught me very hard in the ribs. I couldn't breathe."

Barrera's easy victory focused renewed attention on a series of special circumstances that could have broken his concentration before the Pacquiao fight. He'd split with manager Ricardo Maldonado and his promoter, Forum Boxing, now presided over by John Jackson. Maldonado and Jackson both sued him. It was probably no coincidence that almost simultaneously, a story circulated out of Mexico that surgeons had inserted a small plate in Barrera's head.

Barrera, confirming the rumor, said the surgery was performed in 1997. The Texas commission ordered medical tests that disrupted Barrera's training. Finally, two weeks before the fight, a forest fire forced him to evacuate his camp at Big

Barrera was extremely effective with his left hook to the body against Ayala (above), who was floored three times before referee Pat Russell stopped the fight in the 10th round. The week after the fight, Ayala announced his retirement.

Bear, California, and switch to San Antonio instead.

If Barrera's next big fight is against Morales instead of Pacquiao, it would have to be at 130 pounds, where Morales now campaigns. Richard Schaeffer, CEO of Oscar De La Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions, said that Barrera would have to take at least one fight at that weight before meeting Morales. It's possible, he said, that Barrera and Morales would fight on the same card before the end of this year, setting up their rubber match for the spring of 2005.

Barrera's first 130-pound opponent, Schaeffer said, could be the 22-year-old Mike Anchondo, a California native who is 25-0 (18), and no patsy. Anchondo is also promoted by Golden Boy. Most promoters try to avoid putting their fighters in such jeopardy. A victory by Barrera could stop Anchondo's developing career right in its tracks. A victory by Anchondo would be devastating to Barrera. Is that really the direction Schaeffer wants to take?

"I frankly would rather not," he conceded. He also pointed out that by setting up a variety of scenarios for Barrera, he derives better negotiating leverage.

One thing, Schaeffer said, is certain: "Marco doesn't want tuneups. He wants each fight in itself to be a meaningful fight and to stand on its own." It's what his fans have come to expect.

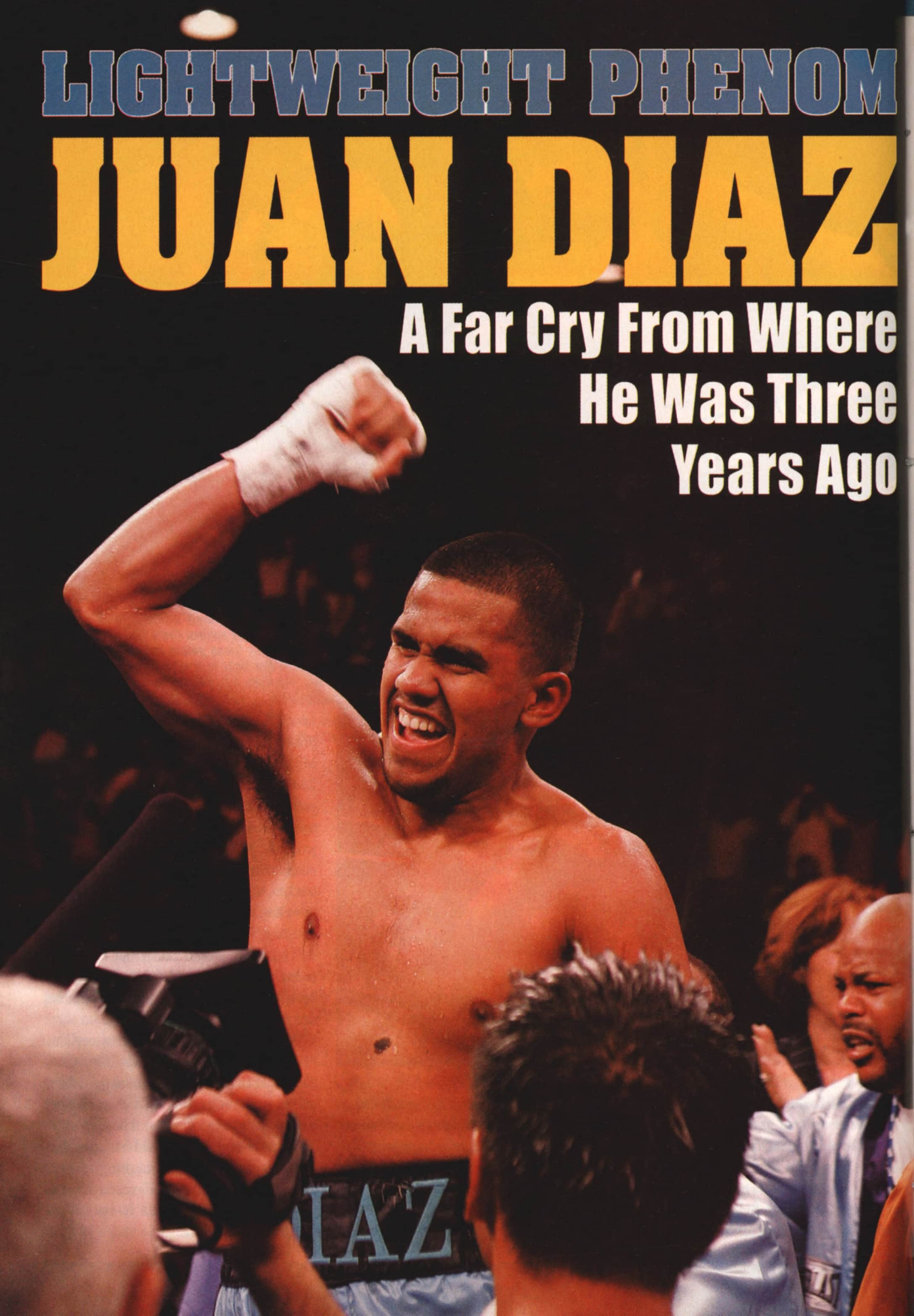
Those who have watched his mercurial career know there's something else to expect from Barrera: the unexpected. ■

Ivan Goldman is THE RING's West Coast correspondent.

LIGHTWEIGHT PHENOM

JUAN DIAZ

A Far Cry From Where He Was Three Years Ago



By Don Stradley
PHOTOS BY WILL HART/HBO

A few days had passed since 20-year-old Juan Diaz of Houston, Texas, had defeated Mongolia's Lakva Sim in one of the year's most entertaining fights, but Diaz' manager, Willie Savannah, couldn't stop talking about him. Savannah wasn't only talking about the variety of bodypunches and violent uppercuts Diaz used to win the fight, he wanted us to know that Diaz is a great kid whose squeaky-clean image is genuine.

"A teacher called me when Juan was in middle school and said, 'Juan can be a world boxing champion, a senator, or the governor of Texas. He can be anything he wants to be.' You should have seen his teachers in elementary school. They just loved him to death," said Savannah. "One teacher even suggested he transfer to another school so he could graduate at a quicker pace, and then she cried when he left."

So we know his teachers loved Diaz. Well, boxing fans are beginning to see why.

Diaz' victory over Sim was the main event of an HBO *Boxing After Dark* show that also featured Kermit Cintron stopping Teddy Reid and Rocky Juarez winning a decision over Zahir Raheem, but it was clearly Diaz who stole the spotlight. If Diaz had not abandoned amateur boxing at 16, this was the summer he would have competed for a gold medal in Athens. Instead, he was fighting Sim at The Reliant Park Arena in Houston on July 17, emerging with the WBA lightweight belt slung over his shoulder.

Sim, 19-4-1 (16), had been advertised by Goossen-Tutor Promotions as a Mongolian version of Manny Pacquiao, a national hero who counted his country's president among his fans. Even HBO's Larry Merchant fell into the line of hype, referring to Sim as "a one man Mongolian horde." Unfortunately for Sim, the first two rounds against Diaz were like walking into a meteor shower.

Ripping combinations to Sim's body, Diaz' punches were deadly accurate and his determination was audible with every snort and grunt that came from him. Sim, grim as a tombstone, started fighting back in the third, dominated a chunk of that round, and carried the momentum into the fourth when he roughed up Diaz and clubbed him with right hands. But for every punch Sim landed, Diaz was landing three or four in return.

At trainer Ronnie Shields' request, "The Baby Bull" came out for the fifth and boxed from a distance. But while Diaz was effective at long range, he preferred walking into the belly of the beast, and by the eighth round he and Sim were back at close quarters, where they battled for the remainder of the fight, nodding respectfully at the end of each round. But mutual respect aside, Sim had to know the alphabet strap was slipping away from him.

By the final round, Diaz had turned The Reliant Park Arena into a high school pep rally, the crowd of 3,600 chanting his name and squealing with every fiery combination he threw. It was no surprise when all three judges turned in scorecards favoring Diaz. Judge Ray Hawkins scored the bout 118-110, while Duane Ford and Marcos Torres saw it 116-112 and 118-111, respectively. Those scores are fair because Diaz certainly won

Twenty-year-old lightweight Diaz celebrates (opposite page) his 12-round victory over rugged Lakva Sim, whom he outworked to win an alphabet belt in a rousing, punch-filled shootout (above) in "The Baby Bull's" hometown of Houston, Texas. It was part of an HBO tripleheader.

Although Diaz loves to get inside and hammer away (top), part of his success against Sim resulted from the Texan's ability to also be very effective boxing from the outside behind his stinging left jab (above). This diversity could very well help him extend his career, since pure sluggers tend not to last very long.

the majority of the rounds, but they don't reflect how Sim's doggedness forced Diaz to work hard for 180 seconds of every frame.

"I knew he was going to come with everything he had," Diaz said of Sim. "Our strategy was to box a little because we knew we couldn't stay toe-to-toe with him the whole time. But I'm the kind of fighter who likes to go forward and not care about anything. Now that my fights are getting harder, I'm going to have to punch and move a little."

Savannah and Shields had devised a plan that would keep Diaz away from Sim's right hand, but Savannah knew there was more to consider.

"Juan is an emotional fighter, so we knew if he went out there and things didn't go the way we planned, he'd revert to his old ways," said Savannah.

The solution was to have Diaz vary his sparring sessions to include a few rounds of boxing, followed by a few rounds of rugged infighting.

Diaz, 25-0 (12), has become a fight fan's fighter, even pulling ahead of Main Events stablemate Juarez as Houston's favorite fighting son. But ironically, the more popular Diaz gets, the less likely he'll be fighting in Texas.

A new three-percent state tax on televised fights may put an end to big fights taking place in Diaz' home state. The Jose Luis Castillo-Juan Lazcano fight for the vacant world lightweight title was originally scheduled to take place in El Paso's Sun Bowl, but promoter Bob Arum scoffed at the idea when he realized upward of $150,000 would be shelled out in taxes.

"The state tax throws a wrench into our plans," said Carl Moretti of Main Events.

Moretti mentioned the possibility of promoting Diaz' future fights just over the Texas border to avoid the TV tax, but still close enough to home for Diaz' fans to attend. Moretti is confident Diaz will bring in crowds wherever he fights. He also feels Diaz no longer needs to be packaged with stablemates Juarez, Cintron, or Francisco Bojado. "He can stand on his own," said Moretti. "HBO is very happy with him."

"He proved he's ready for anybody," said Shields. As for the remaining knock on Diaz—his lack of punching power—Shields isn't concerned. "He's not a big puncher, but he's 20 years old and his body is still developing. But there aren't a lot of big punchers out there, anyway. All championship fights are going the distance now."

While it's true we're not living in an era of explosive knockouts, the lightweight division features a number of big bangers, including world champion Castillo. Is Diaz ready to take on the iron of the class?

"I would say no, because he's only 20 and has only been exposed once to top-

Despite the lopsided nature of the scoring (one judge had Diaz winning 10 of the 12 rounds), Sim made Diaz battle for every point. The Mongolian landed his share of punches and showed incredible durability, but just couldn't match the younger man's speed and volume.

flight competition," said HBO blow-by-blow announcer Jim Lampley. "I'd like to see him against guys of different styles, because Sim was made to order as a target. On the other hand, there's no real mystery to Lazcano or Castillo, and Diaz has more boxing skills and variety in his game. He's also incredibly mature for 20. Also, his response to pressure [against Sim] was to get better and better as each round progressed. Off that performance, it's hard not to be wildly and irrationally enthusiastic."

Lampley also mentioned the effect Diaz had on his broadcast partner, Emanuel Steward. "In the limo after the fight someone asked Manny how Diaz would do against Floyd Mayweather. Basking in the glow of what we'd just seen, Manny said Diaz would beat Mayweather right now. That's an amazing comment from a legendary trainer. But look at what we're talking about, a 20-year-old kid fighting arguably the best fighter in the sport. The sky is the limit for Juan Diaz."

It wasn't always this way for Diaz. Despite Main Events' marketing of him as a precocious man-child, some of us were dubious. We'd heard the story of how he'd skipped his senior prom in order to fight Carlos Nevarez at the Mohegan Sun Casino, and we knew he'd collected enough amateur hardware to fill one of the refurbished buildings in Houston's warehouse district, but it was hard to get excited about this soft-looking kid with the soft punch.

Diaz' stock dropped a bit more in September 2001, after he'd earned a split decision over Ubaldo Hernandez. Feeling he hadn't performed well, Diaz was blindsided by his own emotions during the postfight interview. Smug writers had fun at his expense, but what was lost on them was that Diaz was just a boy, and at an age where most fighters are trying not to look scared during Golden Gloves trials, Diaz' tally of pro fights was already in double digits. But Diaz learned from this episode, and during the three years since has morphed into a tough professional.

Still, young fighters like Diaz have a tricky timetable. Do you give him more time to mature, or do you assume he's in his prime now?

"He's turning 21 in September, so it's not as if the clock is ticking," said Moretti. "We'd like him to enjoy being a champion and make a lot of defenses and hopefully

www.titleboxing.com
www.titleboxing.com
TITLE BOXING
TITLE BOXING
TITLE BOXING
TITLE BOXING
TITLE BOXING

In the end, it was Diaz' youth, relentless energy, and rapid-fire barrages that carried him to victory. He's not a heavy hitter, but the 350 punches CompuBox said he landed offset the 221 he absorbed during his title-winning 12-rounder.

build up to something really big. It's true, young fighters like Juan tend to reach their prime quickly and be done by the time they're 24, so that's always in the backs of our minds, too."

Lampley agrees there should be some concern with Diaz' age and energy-burning style, but feels Main Events and the team around Diaz will look after him.

"Diaz can learn to protect himself a little more, and he already uses his feet quite well, which is a skill some fighters go an entire career without mastering," said Lampley. "Plus, there's a great feeling in their group, they really like each other, and it's great that Ronnie Shields finally has a fighter who listens to him."

"Juan still has a lot of amateur in him," said Shields. "Last year I told him, 'As many punches as you throw, you'll have a very short-lived career.' But he's developed a jab and he can box when he wants to box."

But even if Diaz' intense fighting style doesn't lead to premature burnout, there's always the fear that a youngster attaining too much too soon will inevitably fizzle like a shooting star. Mike Tyson comes to mind, but perhaps the most glaring and saddest example of this was the Puerto Rican wunderkind, Wilfred Benitez.

In 1976, at the age of 17, Benitez won the WBA junior welterweight title from Antonio Cervantes, an achievement that may never be equaled in boxing. Benitez' skills were otherworldly, but in time he grew lazy and arrogant. He won two more titles, but he didn't like to train and eventually took beatings from fighters who wouldn't have touched him a few years earlier. By age 26, he was washed up. Moretti feels Diaz is safe from following the same path.

"Juan lives such a clean lifestyle," Moretti said. "He has no bad outside influences. We're not concerned about him blowing up."

But it's Willie Savannah who knows Diaz best, and can't help but worry a little.

"That's the only thing I'm worried about," said Savannah. "How is a kid like that going to keep his focus? There's not a day that goes by where I don't remind him of his responsibilities."

Diaz, who seems even younger than 20, couldn't relax after defeating Sim, so he decided to unwind by going to church. Two days later, he was registering for classes at the University of Houston, where he's studying law. This doesn't sound like a kid who will have trouble staying focused. In fact, when talking to Diaz, one would be stunned by how unassuming he is. He's not some smirking punk with a head full of stale hip-hop rhymes; he's just a shy kid.

"Maybe I'll only fight three or four years," Diaz said. "Or maybe I'll fight for 10 or 15 years. You never know in boxing. So for now I'll just go with it. It's very exciting."

As far as Diaz is concerned, youth will be served. ■

Don Stradley is a freelance writer from Rockport, Massachusetts, and a regular contributor to this magazine.

New Face

(Continued from page 20)

been through all of that," Gilbert said. "You can turn into a horribly mean, bitter person that does the same mean things to other people by abusing them physically and mentally. Or you can let it make you stronger and you can be a role model."

It was the advice of three former United States Marines that kept Gilbert going and helped influence the direction he eventually chose: Gilbert's recently deceased grandfather, John Aiello; his father, Lt. Commander Warren Gilbert, who was a member of the elite Marine Reconnaissance unit before later joining the U.S. Navy; and Mills Lane, former boxer, Washoe County district attorney, judge, and world famous referee.

"My grandfather always told me, 'Keep on keeping on,'" Gilbert said. "He also told me actions speak louder than words, and to finish what you started."

When he began to attend the University of Nevada, Gilbert had a growth spurt, joined the Wolf Pack club boxing team, and immediately started hitting more than just the books. At 5'11", Gilbert immediately caught the eye of Wolf Pack boxing coach Greg Rice, who trained the likes of James Toney, Jimmy Paul, Duane Thomas, and Milton McCrory when they were amateurs in Detroit.

"The first time Joey sparred, I had him in there with this guy who could really box, who was really slick," recalled the 69-year-old Rice. "Joey went out there and was getting the s--- knocked out of him. Then Joey poured it on and turned it into a slugfest. It was like, *You hit me. I know I'm not that good yet, but I don't care how good you are, I'm going to pour it on.* He was a warrior. I thought, *Boy, have I got a fighter.*"

It wasn't just that Gilbert went 27-1 and won three National Collegiate Boxing Association national titles; it was the way in which he did it. A typical Gilbert fight would involve him getting a bloody nose before he turned it into a war, electrifying the crowd while going toe to toe and pounding his way to victory.

Gilbert excelled out of the ring as well. He graduated in 1999 with a degree in English literature and was only a few classes shy of another in political science before following the advice of Lane, who mentored Gilbert and recommended he pursue a career in law.

To help finance law school, Gilbert joined the Nevada Air National Guard, where he finished as the top academic graduate. But before leaving for Thomas Jefferson, Gilbert had a little unfinished business to take care of in Nevada.

"I was always being told how college boxing was so different from the open amateur class," Gilbert said. "People told me that as a national collegiate champion, I couldn't hold my own, even at the state level."

Three fights and three nights later, Gilbert was the Nevada Golden Gloves middleweight champion, and off he went to San Diego in 2000, where he would soon decide to turn pro.

Until he received his law degree last year, Gilbert fought once or twice each summer. On July 10, Gilbert had his third fight of 2004, overcoming a stomach flu and notching a unanimous six-round decision over Farid Shahid.

Gilbert is under the tutelage of trainer Kenny Rayford and has been integrating some boxing skills to augment his slugging prowess.

"I used to watch him when he boxed for University of Nevada," Rayford said. "What he brought to me was a tremendous work ethic. I have to make him stop sometimes. Some days he comes into the gym and goes an hour nonstop on plyometrics and calisthenics. We've been working on making the transition from amateur to pro. We've got some stuff we need to work on. He still gets too excited."

Against the slippery Shahid, Gilbert came out looking a bit stiff, but every time Shahid made contact, Gilbert bulled in, dropping his slippery opponent in the second round with a series of hard right hands, his strongest weapon.

"He has the mentality that when he takes a shot, he tries to give another shot back right away," Rayford said. "He'll take one to give two. I'd like for him not to just run in after taking a hard shot and trying to get his opponent. He may get caught with something else."

In the ring and out, Gilbert said he lives by the sayings of Lane and his father, who is currently attached to a Marine Expeditionary Force and is part of a 13-man trauma-shock platoon operating in undisclosed locations in Afghanistan.

"One thing my father taught me was to stay focused and stick to what you're doing," Gilbert said. "Obstacles are only the things you see when you take your eyes off your goals. Mills always told me to keep my chin down, keep punching, and move forward."

The results have been academic success, happy crowds, and short fights. Veteran trainer Jesse Reid said he likes what he's seen out of Gilbert so far.

"He's an up-and-comer," Reid said. "He's a tough kid. He has a little bit of speed and he can punch. He's a 'B+' fighter right now, because you've got to prove yourself. He has great potential and seems like a credit to the sport. The question is, will he stay focused when he's more successful and makes more money?"

Gilbert seems to be imbued with a unique blend of the rugged 1940s-1960s Italian-American middleweights and Oscar De La Hoya Syndrome. While Gilbert is undeniably tough, some will say he's involved with too many things to make the most out of his boxing career.

"People don't understand how focused on boxing I am," Gilbert said. "Some people think I've had it easy. They see a college fighter who didn't have to go through the ghetto and work his way from the open amateurs to the pros. They're right. I don't have to feed a family and work three jobs. I'm not trying to prove them wrong, I'm trying to prove me right."

Still others would say Gilbert's skin tone, popularity with female fans, and education provide his would-be opponents who have worked their way up from the streets with plenty of extra incentive to try and rearrange his winsome smile.

"If they underestimate me, good for me," Gilbert said. "There's going to be some people who think I'm a pretty-boy, college-punk walkover. I don't get down on myself or demand you respect me. If they think they can walk right through me, that's fine. What it ultimately comes down to is what happens in the ring."

And regardless of what happens in the ring or with *The Contender*, Gilbert, who will soon attend his 10-year high school reunion, said he has peace of mind.

"Never in a million years," Gilbert said, "would a single classmate guess I'd be where I am right now." ■

The RING Remembers

JIMMY CLABBY

A Good Guy Who Got Some "Bad" Advice

By Pete Ehrmann

Jimmy Clabby didn't have an enemy in the world until it was suggested that he go out and make some to boost his appeal at the box office by bringing out fans who hoped to see him lose. Being an agreeable sort who never cared to antagonize anyone, Clabby complied by becoming his own worst enemy, and his ensuing flameout was one of the saddest in ring annals.

To say Clabby was one of the cleverest boxers ever is less debatable than his claim to the welterweight and middleweight titles in 1910 and 1913, respectively. The glut of self-proclaimed titleholders then was as great as the one of alphabet "champions" today. If anything, it was even more confusing then because of the almost total absence of oversight that made it possible for just about anybody to set up shop as a champion of the world.

That Clabby was Wal-Mart to everybody else's five-and-dime was attested to by a 1913 editorial

in the *Milwaukee Journal* hailing the demise of "the booze fighting champion" and rise of "well-behaved young fellows who make a gentlemanly appearance and know how to conduct themselves before the public. Here in Milwaukee, we have Jimmy Clabby ... who can walk into anyone's parlor and get away with it."

The native of Norwich, Connecticut, who came to Milwaukee in 1906 by way of Hammond, Indiana, was more likely to be found at the horse track than some swell's parlor, and Clabby's fondness for the brew that made Milwaukee famous soon outstripped his taste for sarsaparilla. But his wide smile, sunny disposition, and especially the wizardry between the ropes he learned as a boy because he promised his mother he would become "too clever to be hit hard," qualified Clabby as a marvel of the age.

After one of his first local fights, a win over Billy Morehead in the opening bout on a card on December 21, 1906, a reporter credited Clabby with "skill and ring generalship that is rarely if ever seen in the least important contest of a fistic entertainment."

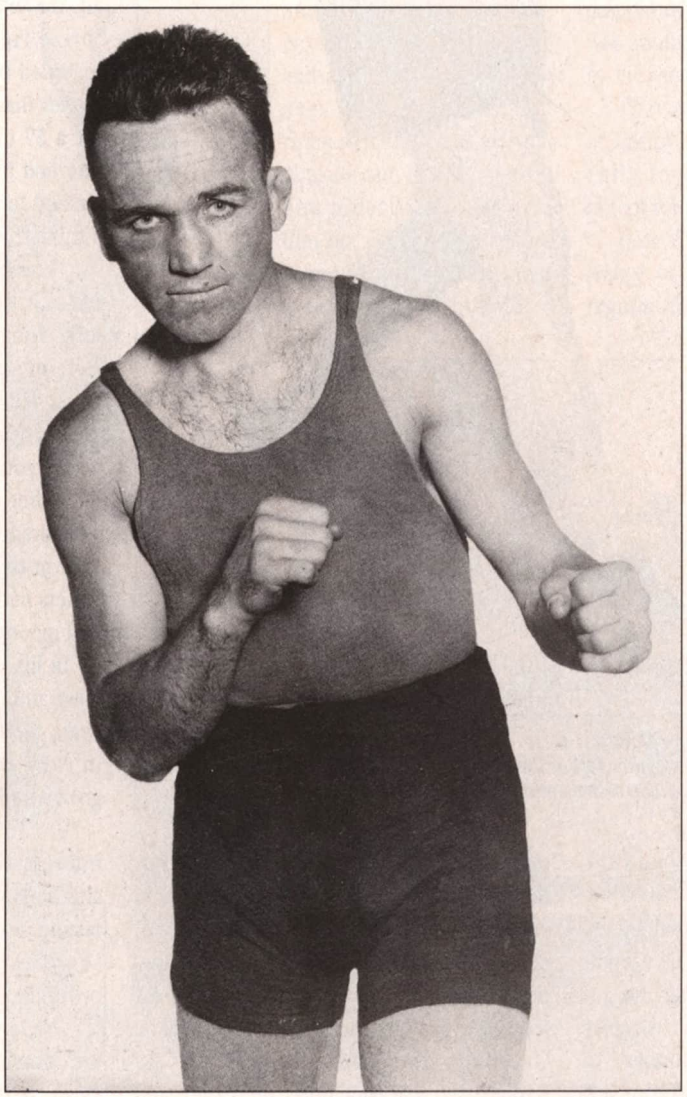
A headline in the *Milwaukee Sentinel* on October 11, 1908, proclaimed the 18-year-old "Milwaukee's Most Promising Scrapper," and the story said "that indefinable thing called 'class' sticks out all over him. He is cool under fire, never wastes an effort, and carries himself in every way like a champion."

Clabby's slickness was buffed to an even greater brilliance out of necessity when he went to New Orleans just a month later and earned a 20-round draw against Jimmy Gardner for the welterweight championship. According to the challenger's manager, Frank Mulkern, when Clabby and Gardner tumbled out of the ring in the 17th round, Clabby's right shoulder went out for good, forcing him to develop "one of the snappiest left hands in boxing history."

Mike Gibbons tasted defeat for the very first time as a pro in his 1909 match with Clabby, but the boxing lesson he got then helped make Gibbons the "St. Paul Phantom" of later renown.

"I really learned about boxing from Jimmy," said Gibbons. "He was a wonderful boxer with a talent for rolling his head away from punches that gave me several good ideas for future fights. He was best at infighting."

Clabby's original claim to the welterweight title was based on his defeat of the Dixie Kid in New York City on May 5, 1910. He totally dominated the recognized titlist over 10 rounds, but since it was officially a no-decision fight and the Kid was a late substitute for Mike "Twin" Sullivan, Clabby's self-anointment is open to question.



Future Hall of Famer Mike Gibbons (pictured) was given a boxing lesson by Clabby when they fought in 1909. The previously undefeated Gibbons said Clabby was "a wonderful boxer with a talent for rolling his head away from punches that gave me several good ideas for future fights."

But Australia went along when Clabby made the first of several tours Down Under later that year. Probably no American fighter was more popular with Aussie fans than Clabby. In fact, "champion" hardly begins to describe how Clabby was regarded in the Antipodes. "God" is more like it. According to a newspaper account, Clabby's mere appearance on Sydney streets created "blockades of traffic," and "when Jimmy goes for a stroll, proud mothers hold their children up to the windows to see the conquering hero."

Back home it was a different story, even after his points defeat of Eddie McGoorty in 1913 for a slice of the middleweight title. Clabby's subsequent arrival in Los Angeles aroused only yawning indifference.

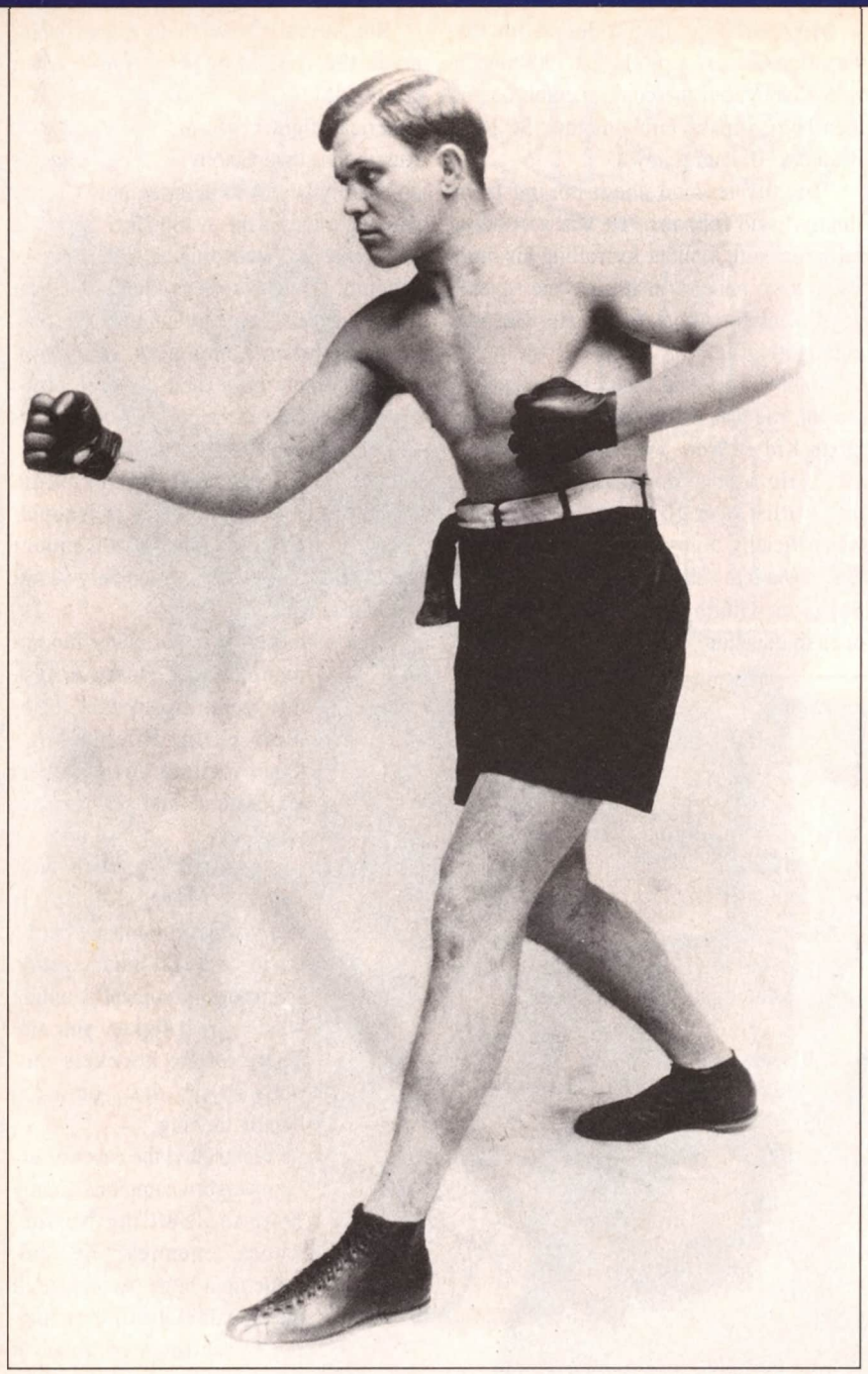
That's when it was seriously recommended—by Harry Foley, manager of lightweight champion Willie Ritchie—that Clabby climb down off his white horse and start pissing people off.

"The trouble with you, Jimmy," Foley told him, "is that you have too many boosters to be a real money-getter. Every man you meet is telling what a great fighter you are. There are no knockers, nobody to say that you are a bum in the ring."

Foley cited the cases of ex-lightweight champions Jimmy Britt and Battling Nelson, whose "enemies," he said, made up a large percentage of the crowds at their fights, hoping to see them go down to defeat.

"Go and make some enemies," counseled Foley. "If you will only do or say something to make enemies, you will soon be getting more money than you do and fill the arenas whenever you fight."

While calling Foley's advice "sound enough from a business standpoint," the notion of Clabby making enemies drew a snort from the *Milwaukee Journal*. "He is too good-natured and consid-



In 1914, Clabby beat George Chip (pictured) for a version of the middleweight title in San Francisco. Just like today, back in the early part of the 20th century many titles were split. Earlier in his career, Clabby also claimed a piece of the welterweight title.

erate for anything like that," said the paper.

But on January 28, 1914, genial Jimmy turned over a new leaf. In fact, he uprooted the whole damned tree when he got loaded and then beat up a Los Angeles policeman in a street brawl. According to press accounts, Officer C.E. Laurence suffered a broken jaw and/or a severe concussion.

Enemies wearing blue uniforms and guns weren't the kind that Foley had in mind, and after paying a $1,000 fine and signing a pledge to "not touch booze, engage in verbal controversy, or visit any place where he may be tempted to fall off the water wagon" for the next three years, Clabby lammed out for Australia. In Sydney, he beat McGoorty on a foul, and he won the Aussie middleweight, light heavyweight, and heavyweight titles in one fell swoop by clocking Dave Smith just a minute into their scheduled 20-rounder.

Upon his return stateside that fall, Clabby beat George Chip in 20 rounds for promoter Jim Coffroth's middleweight championship belt, and returned to his boyhood home of Hammond, where a lavish testimonial dinner welcomed home the prodigal son. Soon, there was even talk of running him for mayor.

But Clabby preferred money, lots of it, and explained why in a letter that was widely published in early-1915, which offers a poignant, revealing look at the life of a prize fighter of that era. In it, Clabby wondered, "How many people stop to think what it means to become a champion? There's the ridicule from promoters, the joshes from your friends, and, worst of all, the extreme disfavor with which your 'prize fighting foolishness' is always regarded by the folks at home. If you told Father that you were going to another city for a $7 clerkship, he'd give you the carfare and his blessing. If you told him you wanted to go to the same place to become a fighter, he'd give you something else.

"You have to get to the scene of your initial battle the best way you can, moneyless, friendless, almost an outcast. You have to start by sweeping out a gymnasium or letting 'a real fighter' make a chopping block out of you. You eat and sleep where you can, but mostly you can't.

"After months of poverty, ridicule, and discouragement, you get started, and for a year or two your face is changed by other boxers and you get, now and then, enough real money to really keep you."

In his case, the best place for that was Australia, and Clabby spent the next five years there, collecting national titles, and in New Zealand, losing twice to homegrown idol Les Darcy.

But fighting was no longer his main interest. What Clabby liked more than anything was spending time at the track, laying down bets on the horses. Pretty soon, he liked it as much as he liked breathing and eating.

"He'd walk out on a fight if he heard the sound of hoof beats," Frank Mulkern said. Milwaukee middleweight Gus Christie traveled to Sydney for a fight, and when he got off the boat, there was Clabby to welcome him Down Under with

the words, "I've got a hot tip on a horse."

"I had never bet on a horse race," Christie recalled, "but I took Jimmy's hot tip and plunked down about $90 on a horse named Miss Nonie. Clabby put a pile of his own dough on the same mule. We lost."

Clabby's bad judgment at the track spilled over into other areas of his life. He got engaged to the daughter of the country's wealthiest bookmaker, but left her standing at the altar on their wedding day.

By Mulkern's account, Clabby earned about $400,000 as a fighter, but by 1922 it had all ridden away in a cloud of dust.

That year Clabby was given $5,000 from fans who agreed with Aussie boxing writer W. Corbett's pronouncement that "No braver fighter ever lived than Jimmy Clabby. He can live here the rest of his natural days, respected and honored."

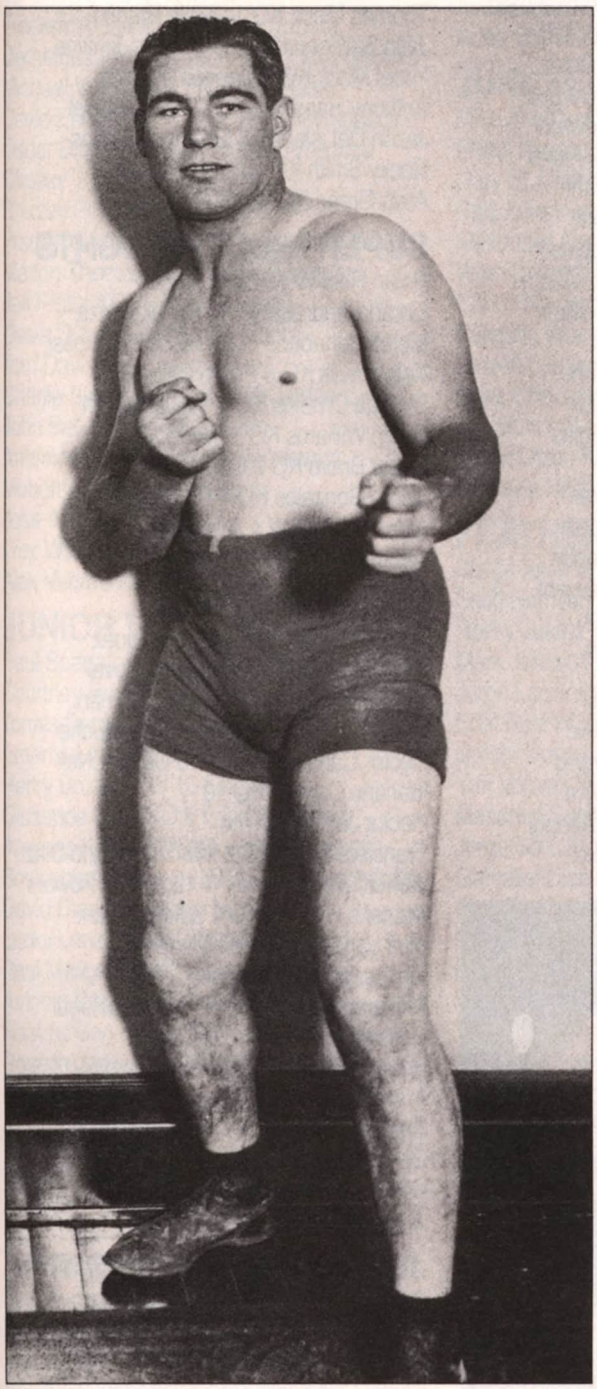
But that would've made too much sense. Instead, Clabby departed for home, and announced upon his arrival that he was going after the middleweight title. Now, of course, he was old and as slow as some of the nags he'd supported, and fighters who would've been chased out of the ring by him a decade earlier beat him up. Clabby finally quit when Morrie Schlaifer knocked him out in 1923.

In 1930, when Clabby returned to the city where he'd started fighting, he was no longer fit to "walk in anybody's parlor and get away with it." Broke and disheveled, he got a job on the Milwaukee docks. Then he discovered a bank account in which he'd left a couple dollars when he left town years before. Thanks to accrued interest, the amount had grown to $13. Clabby grabbed it and disappeared.

In November 1931, newspapers reported that he had burned to death in a hotel for transients in New York City. It turned out to be a case of mistaken identity. Death finally dialed the right number on January 20, 1934. Just 44, Clabby died in a shack in Calumet City, Indiana. Exposure and starvation were the official causes, but some columnists of the sob-sister genre pointed the finger at boxing, as if Clabby was another victim chewed up and spit out by the most pitiless of sports.

They were nuts, of course. The tragedy of Jimmy Clabby was that of a man inherently incapable of offending anyone, except for a cop here and a fiancee there. ■

Pete Ehrmann is a freelance writer living in West Allis, Wisconsin, and a regular contributor to this magazine.



Clabby engaged in several lengthy Australian campaigns and was very popular Down Under. But he could never quite get past local hero and future Hall of Famer Les Darcy (pictured), who won a pair of 20-round decisions over the American.

Although Clabby was broke when he died in 1934, Hammond, Indiana, resident Charley Rhode raised the money for this marker in 1944 by collecting donations from fans. The fighter's grave is located in nearby Highland, Indiana.

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Hasim Rahman KO 2 Rob Calloway
Eliseo Castillo W 10 Michael Moorer
Kirk Johnson KO 8 Gilbert Martinez
Lawrence Clay-Bey KO 5 Imamu Mayfield
Clifford Etienne W 10 Talmadge Griffis
Audley Harrison KO 9 Tomasz Bonin
Tony Thompson KO 2 Agustin Corpus
Owen Beck KO 2 Vernon Woodward
Ruslan Chagaev KO 2 Sedreck Fields
Robert Wiggins W 8 Derek Bryant
Faruq Saleem KO 1 Marvin Hunt
Faruq Saleem KO 1 Shawn Robinson
Donnell Holmes KO 6 Thomas Williams
Robert Davis KO 2 Paul Ray Phillips
Dick Ryan KO 10 Ed White
China Smith W 10 Onebo Maxime
Wladimir Virchis KO 5 Cliff Couser
Abraham Okine W 10 Billy Douglas
Orlin Norris W 8 Mike Peak
Rydell Booker W 8 Tipton Walker
Yamplier Azcuy W 6 Sione Asipeli
Willie Perryman KO 1 Kevin Montiy
Eddie Chambers KO 1 John Sargent
B.J. Flores KO 4 John Turlington
T.J. Wilson KO 2 Jason Williams

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Montell Griffin W 10 Thomas Reid
Felix Cora Jr. W 12 Michael Simms
Jorge Castro W 12 Miguel Aguirre
Enzo Maccarinelli W 12 Ismail Abdoul
Ka-Dy King KO 1 Rodney Moore

PHOTO BY MIKE GREENHILL

Fighting at featherweight, Mark Johnson fires a left at Paulino Villalobos

Olando Rivera KO 4 Ray Berry
Tyrone Tate W 4 Andrew Hutchinson
Tom Nguyen KO 1 Anthony Henry

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Thomas Ulrich KO 11 Silvio Branco
Jaffa Ballogou KO 5 Demetrius Jenkins
Yusef Mack KO 2 Donnell Wiggins
Anthony Hanshaw KO 1 Victor Maciel
Jason DeLisle KO 8 Enrique Campos
Rocky Smith KO 4 Anwar Oshana
Allan Green KO 2 Conal McPhee

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Robin Reid W 12 Brian Magee
Librado Andrade W 12 Tito Mendoza
Mehdi Sahnoune KO 4 Richard Pokossi
Kelly Pavlik KO 6 Pedro Ortega
Enrique Ornelas KO 7 Miguel Martin
Rubin Williams KO 1 Warren Moore
Oscar Bravo KO 2 Corey Budd
Jesus Gonzales KO 4 Chris Grays
James McGirt W 4 Julio Jean
Laila Ali KO 4 Nikki Eplion

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Jermain Taylor KO 9 Raul Marquez
Sam Soliman W 12 Raymond Joval
Kofi Jantuah KO 4 Anthony Bowman
Danny Perez W 10 Jose Luis Zertuche
Hector Camacho Sr. W 10 Clint McNeil
Mariano Carrera KO 10
Hector Javier Velazco
Francisco Mora KO 8 Marcos Silvano Diaz
James Obede Toney W 12 Ayittey Powers
Naotaka Hozumi KO 4 Sungjoo Park
Matt Vanda KO 2 Ron Martinez
Ian Gardner W 10 Patrick Perez
Muhammad Said W 10 Rene Arostegui
Hassan Al W 6 Fray Luis Sierra
Robert Roselia KO 3 Ottavio Barone
Andrey Tsurkan KO 3 Joshua Smith
Sechew Powell W 8 Grady Brewer
George Armenta W 8 Irving Garcia
David Estrada KO 6 Shay Mobley
Joey Gilbert W 6 Farid Shaheed

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Bronco McKart KO 6 James Johnson
Michele Piccirillo KO 3 Stephane Taliana
Diobelys Hurtado KO 2 Leo Edwards
Sergei Dzindziruk KO 3 Mamadou Thiam
Shannan Taylor W 12 Walter Crucce
Yory Boy Campas W 10 Andres Pacheco
Guillermo Saputo KO 3 Hector Zelaya

Marat Khuzeev W 12 Joszef Matolcsi
Daniel Dawson KO 8 Fred Kinuthia
Cornelius Bundridge KO 2 Kirk Douglas
Ahmed Kaddour KO 1 Fontaine Cabell
Ruben Fuchu W 8 Juan Rivera
Jonathan Ochoa W Disq. 2
Frankie Gonzales

WELTERWEIGHTS

Kermit Cintron KO 8 Teddy Reid
Mike Stewart KO 8 Juan Carlos Escobar
Terrance Cauthen W 10 Roberto Ortega
Frederic Klose W 12 Michel Trabant
Demetrius Hopkins Tech. Win 7 Al Gonzales
Michael Warrick W 10 Jeffrey Resto
David Estrada W 12 Nurhan Suleymanoglo
Oscar Diaz KO 2 Juan Carlos Amezcua
Chucky T KO 2 Kevin Watts
Bradley Pryce KO 8 Keith Jones
Freddy Hernandez W 10 Jesus Soto-Karass
Marlon Thomas KO 1 Benjie Marquez
Jeff Fraza KO 10 Paul Delgado
Ossie Duran KO 3 Jamie Moore
Tom Davis KO 1 Kendall Holt
Charlie Symonds KO 4 Brett James
John Bailey KO 7 Jacy Kuhn
Antonio Lauri W 10 Rafal Jackiewicz
Mohammed Kayongo D 8
Jose Antonio Ojeda
Troy Wilson KO 2 Rodney Freeman
Alex Viramontes KO 1 David Jackson

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Paul Spadafora KO 10 Francisco Campos
Courtney Burton W 10 Emanuel Augustus
Tomas Barrientes W Disq. 7
Emanuel Augustus
Henry Bruseles W 10 Lino Perez
Giuseppe Lauri KO 9 Farid El Houari
Andreas Kotelnik W 12 Gabriel Mapouka
Souleymane Mbaye KO 3 Marian Leondraliu
David Diaz W 8 Jaime Morales
Lucky Lewele KO 7 Patrick Mthembu
Paul Malignaggi W 10 Ramiro Cano
Antonio Pitalua KO 7 Noel Cortez
Naoufel Ben Rabah KO 6 John Cotterill
Rogelio Castaneda W 10 Ernest Johnson
Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. KO 2
Jose Luis Huerta

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Juan Diaz W 12 Lakva Sim
(Wins WBA Title)
Joel Casamayor W 10 Daniel Seda
Sirimongkol Singmanasak KO 8
Larry Pelonia
Aldo Rios W 12 Roberto Arrieta
Ebo Elder W 10 Fernando Trejo
Koba Gogoladze W 10 Lamar Murphy
Ivan Valle KO 1 Adan Hernandez
Ernesto Zepeda KO 9 Hector Mancina
Adrian Mora W 10 Steve Quinonez
Gavin Rees KO 2 Michael Muya
Kengo Nagashima KO 6 Seung-Won Baek
Prawet Singwangcha W 12
Fernando Montilla
Jairo Ramirez KO 1
Julio Cesar Sanchez-Leon
Francisco Dianzo KO 2 Juan Sarabia
Isaac Mendoza W 10 Roy Delgado
Eleazar Contreras W 8 Mark Burse
Shamir Reyes W 8 Gerald Gray
Americo Santos W 8 Adam Gonzalez
Koba Gogoladze KO 1 Mauricio Borquez

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Mike Anchondo W 12 Julio Pablo Chacon
Nedal Hussein KO 1 Kularbdang Kiatkerin
Gary St. Clair KO 6 Bart Abapo
Carl Johanneson KO 5
Alexander Abramenko
Willie Limond W 10 Youssef Djibaba
Carlos Navarro KO 7 Luisito Espinosa
Pongsith Wiangwiset KO 4 Jesar Ancajas
Steven Luevano KO 9 Fred Neal
Isaac Chavarria W 12 Aristeo Perez
Raymundo Beltran W 8 Roque Cassiani
Jason Litzau KO 3 Frank Martinez
Chevelle Hallback W 10 Layla McCarter

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Marco Antonio Barrera KO 10 Paulie Ayala
Scott Harrison KO 3 William Abelyan
Rocky Juarez W 12 Zahir Raheem
Mark Johnson W 10 Paulino Villalobos
Jorge Lacierva KO 6 Jesus Perez
Edel Ruiz W 12 Angel Chacon
Ismael Gonzales W 12 Hector Marquez
Yuri Voronin W 10 Gheorghe Ghiompirica
Masanori Sugita Tech. Draw 8 Yasuhisa Ito
Jorge Solis KO 4 Martin Sanchez
Gamaliel Diaz KO 8 Trino Cordoba
Choi Tseveenpurev KO 6 Harry Ramakgoadi
Chonlatarn Piriyapinyo W 12
Rolando Gerongco
Whyber Garcia KO 7 Martin Santiesteban
Verquan Kimbrough W 8 Ubaldo Olivencia
Bernard Dunne W 6 Pedro Mora
Jose Gonzalez W 6 Ivan Cazarez
Jose Diaz KO 4 Lamont Lindsey

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Veerapol Sahaprom KO 5 Rajabu Mahoja
(Non-Title Bout)
Jhonny Gonzalez KO 1 Francisco Tejedor
Napapol Kiatisakchokchai KO 4
Allan Kamote
Dimitri Kirilov KO 3 Georghe Oprea
Jason Adams W 12 Sergio Santillan
Masakazu Sugawara W 10
Samingnum Wiwatananon
Jun Toriumi KO 5 Jung-Hoon Kang
Jose Aguiniga W 10 Gerardo Espinoza
Steve Molitor W 10 Pedro Javier Torres
Ryuichi Minoriyama W 10 Reynald Tribo
Toshikane Nakajima Tech. Draw 4
Kyohei Tamakoshi

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Ratanachai Vorapin KO 2 Rashid Ally
Chatchai Sasakul KO 8 Jun Magsipoc
Medgoen Singsurat KO 6
Daothai Kiatkamjorn
Poonsawat Kratingdaenggym KO 4
Obote Ameme
Shin Ogata W 10 Yusuke Morishima
Teerapong Distar W 12 Michael Domingo
Sasha Bakhtine W 10 Setsuo Segawa
Gabriel Elizondo W 8 Alejandro Moreno

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Katsushige Kawashima KO 1
Masamori Tokuyama
(Wins WBC Title)
Gerson Guerrero W 12 Jair Jimenez
Francisco Arce W 10 Salvador Casillas
Simon Ramoni W 12 Nkosana Sobethu
Alberto Mitre W 12 William DeSousa
Alex Becerra W 10 David Martinez
Masayuki Arinaga W 10 Masaki Kawabata
Glenn Donaire W 6 Leonardo Castillo

FLYWEIGHTS

Pongsaklek Wonjongkam KO 5
Luis Angel Martinez
(Retains WBC Title)
Brahim Asloum W 12 Alexander Mahmutov
Jose Lopez KO 3 Javier Cintron
Damaen Kelly KO 4 Delroy Spencer
Nkqubela Gwalez KO 10 Lindi Memani
Noriyuki Komatsu Tech. Win 10
Takeyuki Kojima
William Gonzalez KO 8 Evert Briceno
Carlos Bouchan W 12 Jose Tirado
Julio David Roque Ler KO 4 Carlos Villagran
Nonito Donaire KO 4 Ricardo Barrera

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Ulises Solis KO 1 Alberto Davila
Roberto Vasquez KO 5 Edgar Velasquez
Masato Hatakeyama D 10 Hidekazu Miyagi
Edgar Sosa W 12 Francisco Rosas

STRAWWEIGHTS

Yutaka Niida W 12 Noel Arambulet
(Regains WBA Title)
Eagle Kyowa Tech. Win 8
Satoshi Kogumazaka
(Retains WBC Title)
Carlos Melo W 12 Miguel Tellez
Oleydong Sithsamerchai KO 1
Cenon DeOcampo
Lorenzo Trejo KO 3 Emilio Aguelican
Nkosinathi Joyi KO 1 Kuselekile Gada

BOXING EQUIPMENT
EVERLAST
EST. 1910
BRONX, NEW YORK
PRESENTS

The RING

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

Just call Katsushige Kawashima the Japanese Tarver. Like Antonio Tarver, he turned pro in February 1997. Like Tarver, he lost a decision in a fight in 2000 that he was expected to win. Like Tarver, he rebounded and, in '03, lost a close decision to the top man in his division. Like Tarver, he got his deserved rematch. And like Tarver, he did something special when that rematch came around.

PHOTO BY TOSHIFUMI KITAMURA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Masamori Tokuyama was the number-one fighter at 115 pounds, the longest reigning and most proven titlist in the division by far. He handed tricky In Joo Cho the first two defeats of his career, and twice he outpointed the excellent Gerry Penalosa. He hadn't lost since 1997, and had never been stopped. Tokuyama wasn't supposed to lose his rematch with Kawashima. He especially wasn't supposed to get knocked out. And he double-especially wasn't supposed to get knocked out in one round.

But that's precisely what happened. Kawashima scored a kayo as unforgettable to Asian fight fans as Tarver's blastout of Jones was to us, and it took him less than two minutes to do it.

How do you say "Magic Man" in Japanese?

• • • •

Katsushige Kawashima

RINGSIDE REPORTS

Joel Casamayor W 10 Daniel Seda

Miami, Florida: By the time previously unbeaten Seda finally got going, he had been knocked down and was way behind on the scorecards. But from the middle of the fifth round on, the 25-year-old from Puerto Rico showed that he just might be capable of beating some quality junior lightweights. By then, however, it was too late, as Casamayor had already built a large enough lead, coupled with a good final round, to win a unanimous decision by triple tallies of 98-92 from official judges Peter Trematerra, Stu Winston, and Mark Streisand. THE RING scored it a much closer at 97-95, also in Casamayor's favor.

After a slow opener, Casamayor began punishing Seda with crisp combinations in the second round. To make matters worse for Seda, he suffered a cut over his right eye in the third, thanks to a supposedly accidental clash of heads. With Casamayor, who has a well-earned reputation for rough stuff, you never know for sure what's accidental and what's not.

Casamayor, 133, was still in charge after four rounds, and when a flurry of head blows dumped Seda, also 133, along the ropes in the fifth, it looked like the end was near. But the knockdown seemed to wake up Seda, and soon after regaining his feet, he rallied back to floor Casamayor with a sharp right to the head. The Cuban exile beat referee Bill Connors' count, but got the worst of it the rest of the round.

The 32-year-old Casamayor seemed to regain control in the sixth, until late in the round when Seda, two inches shorter at 5'5", landed a solid left hook. Seda continued to press and score over the next few rounds, and during the rest between the eighth and ninth, Casamayor's trainer, Buddy McGirt, told him he was "giving up too much ground."

Casamayor responded by showing more fire than he had since the start of the fifth, and began to take it to Seda again. There were several spirited, mid-ring exchanges, with both men landing cleanly in crisp two-way action.

Seda, 20-1-1 (16), kept coming forward in the 10th, but Casamayor, 31-2 (19), picked him off with neat counters to have his best round in some time.

Casamayor, ranked second at junior lightweight by THE RING, would love a rubber match with Diego Corrales next, but Corrales has to get past Acelino Freitas in an August lightweight bout first.

Television: Showtime

Promoters: Team Freedom and Northeast Promotions in association with Warrior's Boxing and Cedric Kushner Promotions

(7-3-04)

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

Seda lands a crunching left to Casamayor's chin

Ricky Hatton W 12 Carlos Wilfredo Vilches

Manchester, England: Hatton's frustrations over his stilted progress toward the pinnacle of the junior welterweight division infiltrated his lethargic performance at the MEN Arena where, in front of 16,000 of his loyal hometown fans, he was forced to go the distance and had to settle for a points win against Vilches, 139½, Santa Rosa, Argentina. Hatton, 139¾, Manchester, England, won easily on all three judges' scorecards, but it was clear that he struggled to get up for an opponent of no real value at this point in Hatton's career.

The undefeated 25-year-old improved his record to 36-0 (26), but it is the big men at 140 pounds against whom he craves to prove his worth, not an obscure South American who had been exposed on every previous occasion that he had faced world-class competition.

PHOTO BY JOHN GICHIGI/GETTY IMAGES

Hatton has Vilches in a dangerous spot

"I felt really flat tonight," admitted Hatton, whose subsequent urgings to promoter Frank Warren paid dividends with the announcement that his next fight will be against Vivian Harris. He has dismantled the likes of Vince Phillips and Ben Tackie, but they were past their best, and his challenge of Harris will finally be his opportunity to prove his legitimacy as a potential successor to Kostya Tszyu, the division's kingpin.

The 27-year-old Vilches had the number 22 shaved into the back of his head. In his homeland, this would serve as the warning of a crazy man. In the opening round, he served notice that he could be a dangerous man, standing and trading with Hatton, digging in a number of left hooks to Hatton's body, and landing one perfect left hook to

the jaw of the Manchester man. But the greater volume of telling blows were being landed by Hatton, who hurt the Argentine with his trademark shots to the body.

By the second round, Vilches was already struggling. Hatton's physical strength and the power in his punch had the Argentine on the defensive. The visitor was persuaded to slip into survival mode, the way he would remain for the rest of the fight.

A left hook to the body and a short right cross to the jaw in round three drew signs of growing anxiety from Vilches, 41-5-2 (25) with 1 no-contest, who was stopped in four rounds last year by Sharmba Mitchell. Hatton would have loved to replicate that result, but Vilches dug in and displayed durability, even catching Hatton with the occasional right to the body and jaw in the fourth to further frustrate the hometown fighter.

From the middle rounds on, Hatton's performance fell flat. His punches lacked snap, Vilches found it easier to survive each round, and at the end of the seventh, Hatton returned to his corner and told his trainer, Billy Graham, "I don't feel great." Over the succeeding rounds, he did not look great either. He was winning them, but not in the destructive manner that has demoralized and defeated the majority of his opponents. For the near-capacity crowd, it was not the typical Hatton fight night. His energy level was down and increasingly there was a distracted, almost distant look about his work.

All three British judges scored for Hatton: Karl Rogers and Tony Walker had it 119-108, and Reg Thompson saw it 120-107, the same as THE RING. The referee was Darryl Ribbink (South Africa).

Promoter: Sports Network

Brian Doogan

Katsushige Kawashima KO 1 Masamori Tokuyama

Yokohama, Japan: Hard-hitting Japanese challenger Kawashima, 115, captured the WBC super flyweight belt in truly unexpected fashion, dropping longtime titleholder Tokuyama, 115, twice in the first round before referee Jay Nady (USA) called for a well-received stoppage at the 1:47 mark at the Yokohama Arena. Tokuyama, making his ninth defense, was the favorite, but when he defended against Kawashima in June of the previous year, he was pushed to the limit before winning a close unanimous decision. With that in mind, a title change seemed possible—but the manner in which it happened was downright shocking.

The 29-year-old Kawashima was aggressive from the start, throwing jabs and left-right combinations. Tokuyama, also 29, was just trying to feel out the challenger, but Kawashima let fly a vicious overhand right to the face that put the Japan-based Korean down on all fours. Tokuyama, 30-3-1 (8), managed to beat the count, but his legs looked a bit shaky. Kawashima didn't waste time, attacking the still-dazed titlist with a flurry of punches followed by a smashing right, which bounced Tokuyama's head off the canvas with a thud. The third man wisely made an immediate halt to award the upset victory to Kawashima, 26-3 (18).

"I followed our fight plan, which paid off well," said Kawashima in a classic understatement.

Promoter: Ohashi Promotions

(6-28-04)

Joe Koizumi

Eagle Kyowa Tech. Win 8 Satoshi Kogumazaka

Yokohama, Japan: WBC 105-pound beltholder Eagle Kyowa (formerly known as Eagle Akakura, and born Den Janlaphan), 104¾, a Thailander living in Tokyo, proved too strong and sharp for Japanese southpaw Kogumazaka, 104¾, in making his first title defense. Eagle dropped Kogumazaka with a solid one-two combination in the second and swept all of the remaining rounds before prevailing by technical decision when the fight was stopped at 2:24 of the eighth round. Kogumazaka, two years Eagle's senior at 27, bled so profusely from a cut on the left side of his head caused by an accidental butt that the ringside physician advised referee Nobuaki Uratani (Japan) to halt the proceeding.

It was quite a lopsided affair as Eagle, 13-0 (5), persistently stalked the challenger with positive attacks, piling up points steadily. Kogumazaka, 20-6-3 (9), sustained a gash on the side of his head in the sixth and another near the same place in the fatal eighth, each by an unintentional butt, turning his golden-dyed hair to crimson.

Judges Gary Ritter (USA) and Takeaki Kanaya (Japan) both scored the aborted contest 80-71, and Masakazu Uchida (Japan) had it 80-73, all in Eagle's favor.

Promoter: Ohashi Promotions

(6-28-04)

Joe Koizumi

PHOTO BY TOSHIFUMI KITAMURA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Eagle blasts bloody Kogumazaka with a left

PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER FURLONG/GETTY IMAGES

Harrison hammers Abelyan to the floor

Scott Harrison KO 3 William Abelyan

Glasgow, Scotland: Cleared in a court of law of charges of assault just nine days before he walked to the ring, Harrison, 126, Cambuslang, Scotland, was still able to prepare for mentally and dispense brutally with Abelyan, 126, Glendale, California, via Jerevan, Armenia, inside three rounds at the Braehead Arena. As a statement to the world's top featherweights, Harrison's demolition job carried as much impact as the heavy hooks and crosses that crushed his southpaw foe.

Harrison holds only the WBO belt, but is in prime position to secure big fights. His mandatory challenger is Marco Antonio Barrera. Promoter Frank Warren, who has promoted Barrera in the past, believes this match will soon be made. Another potential clash is against Injin Chi, who defeated another British featherweight, Michael Brodie, in April.

"I believe I am the best featherweight in the world," said Harrison. "I just want the opportunity to prove it. I think I'm just about getting to my peak now, but I feel I can jump up another level or two if I need to in big unification bouts."

He certainly operated at too high a level for Abelyan. The Armenian came to Harrison's backyard with a reputation for durability, and his slippery style led some to believe that he could give Harrison, 22-2-1 (12), problems. But the 26-year-old Scot was quickly into his ruthlessly efficient rhythm, punishing Abelyan, 23-5-1 (12), with solid straight rights and hard left hooks, catching his 25-year-old opponent with ominous regularity.

The visitor did manage to prove more elusive in round two, circling the ring and tagging Harrison with sharp counters, providing just the kind of nuisance that had worried Harrison's manager, Frank Maloney, beforehand. But the anxiety in the Scottish camp did not last long. A right hand on the button floored Abelyan early in the third and he was clearly hurt. Harrison's strength at the weight is overwhelming, and once Abelyan was in trouble he was finished. A two-fisted assault put Abelyan down a second time. He beat the count of American referee Samuel Viruet, but his time was up. Harrison dispatched several more hard shots and the referee stepped in to intervene at the 1:45 mark to protect Abelyan from further harm.

"I didn't let the events surrounding the court case or anything like that get in the way. I was focused on getting the job done, and that's what I did," said Harrison.

Promoter: Sports Network

(6-19-04)

Brian Doogan

Jermain Taylor KO 9 Raul Marquez

Carson, California: No matter what Taylor does in the ring or how well he does it, somebody always deflates him with the same question: Is he ready for Bernard Hopkins? This time, after dispatching tough veteran and 1992 Olympic silver medalist Marquez, Taylor answered: "I feel like I'm learning." Translated, that means no.

But he's getting there. And one of these days, perhaps before RING middleweight champ Hopkins starts collecting Social Security, Taylor, 25, will answer yes. Meanwhile, he's doing exactly what a carefully groomed fighter with talent, ambition, and a great amateur background ought to do. He's facing tougher and tougher tests and proving himself fight by fight.

Marquez, 32, an IBF 154-pound titleholder seven years ago, gave this one all he had. Losing one round after another, he never stopped coming forward until the ninth, when his well went dry. He had his moments, but Taylor, 160, Little Rock, Arkansas, understood the importance of patience. Though he might not answer a good shot right away, he knew he would eventually answer and prevail. He was quicker and stronger. Former junior lightweight titleholder Genaro Hernandez, sitting near THE RING'S correspondent, felt Taylor should have worked to end it sooner.

Southpaw Marquez, 159½, Houston, Texas, a close friend of the promoter, his former Olympic teammate Oscar De La Hoya, grabbed the opportunity to be in the co-feature on the Marco Antonio Barrera-Paulie Ayala card at the Home Depot Center. His plan was to win or retire, and immediately after losing, he announced his retirement with a record of 35-3 (24) with 1 no-contest. Marquez, unlike too many fighters, has someplace to go. He's the color analyst on De La Hoya's HBO Latino cards and on NBC's *Budweiser Boxing* series.

California judges Tony Crebs, Lou Filippo, and Jose Cobian all had it 90-80 Taylor through nine rounds, with a 10-8 round in the ninth, a round that ended with Marquez going down from a combination. With a fresh cut to the side of his right eye, he made it up in time to beat the count by referee Jack Reiss (USA). When the bell sounded and Marquez made it back to his corner, trainer Ronnie Shields surrendered for his fighter.

"I guess it was [Taylor's] speed," Marquez said later. "That's why I couldn't get to him." But he also answered the perennial question for Taylor by saying, "I definitely don't think he's ready for Bernard Hopkins."

Taylor, 21-0 (16), said his jab "was on, but it wasn't on like it's supposed to be. Raul is so slick."

PHOTO BY JAN SANDERS

Flush shots like this led Taylor to an easy victory

HBO boxing boss Kery Davis, though he didn't get the spectacular fight the camera craves, was satisfied nevertheless. He indicated he would try to schedule Taylor for another HBO slot before the end of the year. No doubt it will be with yet another opponent who isn't Hopkins.

Promoters: Golden Boy Productions, Top Rank, DiBella Entertainment

(6-19-04)

Ivan Goldman

Yutaka Niida W 12 Noel Arambulet

Tokyo, Japan: Ex-titleholder Niida, 104¾, Japan, recaptured the WBA 105-pound belt and avenged his only loss as he outhustled the sluggish Arambulet, 105¾, Venezuela, in the later rounds to pound out a unanimous decision over 12 heats at the Korakuen Hall. The Venezuelan had been stripped of his belt the day before because of his failure to make the weight. Had Arambulet been victorious, the title would have been declared vacant, but instead Niida reclaimed it.

Though his coronation was expected following Arambulet's weight-making difficulties, Niida, 25, fought nervously early in the fight and failed to throw his punches smoothly. Still, by occasionally landing one solid punch at a time, the Japanese challenger built a lead, thanks to the fact that Arambulet, 30, was throwing very few punches.

Niida turned loose in the seventh and connected with solid punches. Arambulet, 20-3-1 (10) with 1 no-contest, took the eighth by upping his output, while Niida turned southpaw with minimal success. Niida, 16-1-3 (8), went back to orthodox, however, and dominated rounds nine through 11, unleashing good combinations to often pin the Venezuelan to the ropes and put the fight out of reach.

The official tallies were as follows: Guy Jutras (Canada) 117-111, Jean-Luis Legland (France) 117-112, and Michael Lee (Korea) 116-113, all for Niida. The referee was Mark Nelson (USA).

Promoter: Yokohama Hikari Promotions, in association with Teiken Promotions

(7-3-04)

Joe Koizumi

Pongsaklek Wonjongkam KO 5 Luis Angel Martinez

Khonkaen, Thailand: Pongsaklek's 10th defense of the WBC flyweight title, against 22-year-old Mexican club-fighter Martinez, was every bit as easy as expected, but it still didn't go exactly as the Thai titleholder had hoped. The southpaw Pongsaklek suffered a bad cut on his left eyebrow from a fourth-round accidental headbutt, marring an otherwise flawless fifth-round stoppage win.

The 26-year-old titlist, who has been reigning since March '01, dominated the first three rounds with an aggressive attack that featured an assortment of effective combinations. In the fourth, the fighters' heads came together, leaving Pongsaklek with a gash that warranted a long look from the ringside physician. But the fight was allowed to continue, with Martinez docked a point by referee David Chong (Korea) in accordance with the rules of the WBC.

Pongsaklek, 52-2 (29), turned up the aggression thereafter, and dropped Martinez, 14-4-2 (6), with a right hook midway through the fifth round. At the 1:49 mark, in the midst of a follow-up assault by the Thai, Chong stopped the fight.

Assuming his cut heals in time, Pongsaklek is scheduled to defend again on October 8 in Phuket, Thailand.

(7-15-04)

Rocky Juarez W 12 Zahir Raheem

Houston, Texas: In a battle of undefeated featherweights in front of 3,654 fans at the Reliant Arena, Juarez scored a 12-round unanimous decision over Raheem in an ugly fight further marred by inept refereeing.

Beginning in the third round, Texas referee Robert Gonzalez got on Raheem's case about holding hometown kid Juarez behind the head. It was a harmless infraction that most referees would let slide like any other clinch, but Gonzalez issued dozens of warnings over the course of the bout and penalized Raheem a total of three points. Both fighters were upset about the officiating.

"I was not allowed to do what I wanted to do on the inside," Juarez said. "I was aggravated by the referee, but I had to make the best of it."

Raheem, 126, Tulsa, Oklahoma, won the first two rounds boxing effectively from a distance, pumping out his jab and landing an occasional straight right. Utilizing zippy footwork and slippery upper-body movement, he made himself an elusive target for the notoriously slow-starting Juarez.

The 24-year-old Juarez, 126, began finding his groove in round three, connecting with overhand rights, one-twos, and solid left hooks to the body, and Raheem, 28, started holding as soon as he got tagged. In the fourth, Gonzalez deducted a point from Raheem for holding, and moments later, a left hook to the chin hurt Raheem, and he voluntarily dropped to a knee for an eight-count reprieve. He almost looked ready to quit, but survived the round and got himself together.

Raheem, 25-1 (15), resumed his stick-and-move strategy in rounds five and six while Juarez stalked him across the ring. As Juarez began closing the distance with increasing regularity, the taller Raheem instinctively tied him up behind the head, which cost him another point deduction in the sixth.

As the fight progressed, Gonzalez continued to issue numerous

THE BIGGEST FIGHT OF THE YEAR...

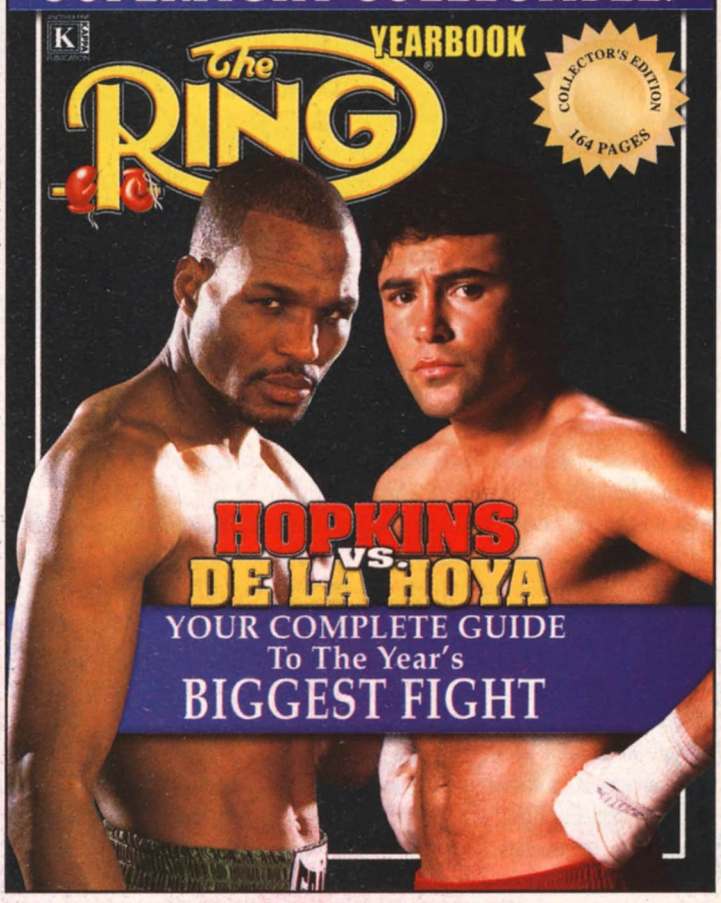
THE BIGGEST MAGAZINE ON A BIG FIGHT, EVER!

No matter who wins the megafight between Bernard Hopkins and Oscar De La Hoya, The 2004 Ring Yearbook is a keeper!

- Expert analysis and picks
- Strategical breakdowns by the trainers
- Career histories
- Historical perspectives
- Artist sketches ... brilliant photos ... and more!

164-Page Collector's Edition!
Look for it on newsstands or order using the form below.

SUPERFIGHT COLLECTIBLE!



☐ Please send me **THE RING YEARBOOK: DE LA HOYA vs. HOPKINS** I am enclosing $9.95 per copy (plus $2 postage and handling) as payment in full.

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard
#_____

Expiration Date: ___/___
MO/YR

Signature:_____

Send To:
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Print your name and address clearly

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

For all orders outside the U.S., please add postage as follows: Canada—Surface mail: $3.00; Airmail: $3.50 Foreign—Surface mail: $4.00; Airmail: $8.00. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

6997-7/04

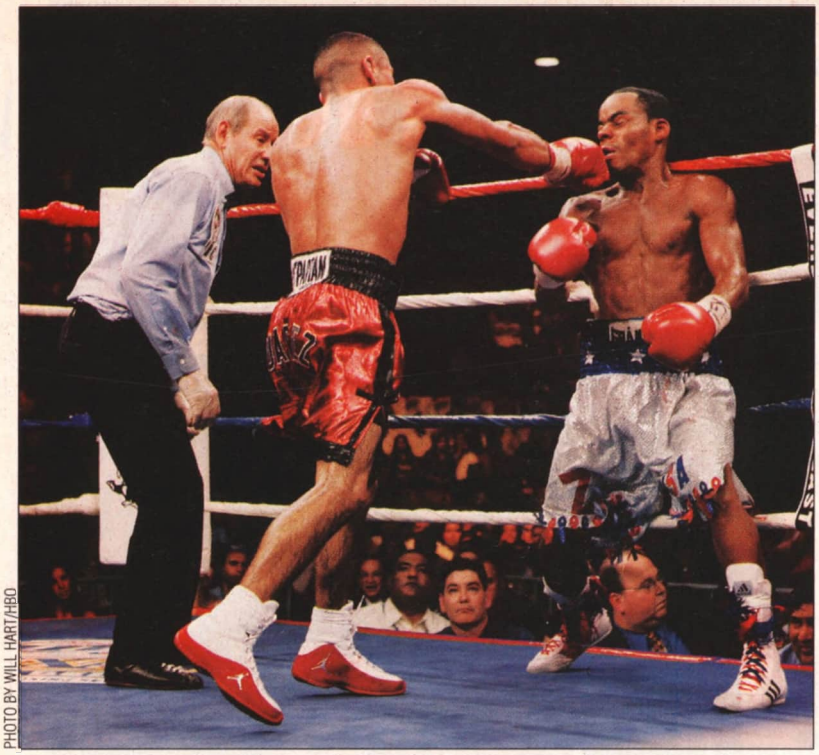


PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

Juarez catches Raheem with a right as Gonzalez looks on

warnings and penalized Raheem another point in the 10th. Prior to the 12th round, Gonzalez took his frustration out on Raheem's chief second, Fred Jenkins, by physically tossing him out of the ring when Jenkins was trying to dry off the wet logo in the middle of the canvas that was causing his fighter to slip.

Meanwhile, Raheem scored effectively with rapid flurries and well-timed counterpunches over the last several rounds, while Juarez never regained sufficient rhythm to put together more than one or two punches at a time. He won a few rounds along the way, but mostly was chasing Raheem ineffectively.

"I felt something about the fight was not usual from the beginning," Juarez said. "I started getting frustrated. I don't know what happened. My conditioning was there. My training was there. I just stopped throwing punches."

The bout was torture to watch and a nightmare to score. Judges Hugh Echols (USA), Lee McCowan (USA), and David Sutherland (USA) scored the fight 114-110, 115-109, and 113-111, respectively, all for Juarez. Without the three point deductions, Juarez would still have won by split decision. THE RING agreed with Sutherland, favoring Juarez by 113-111, but without the deductions, Raheem would have won on THE RING's card, 114-113.

Juarez' ascent up the featherweight ranks seems to have hit a plateau. Nevertheless, he said he is prepared to take on the division's elite.

"Yes, I'm ready for the world title," Juarez, 21-0 (14), said. "I know my last three fights have not been spectacular—they all went the distance—but if they put me in a championship fight next, I'm ready."

Television: HBO

Promoter: Main Events in association with Tony Holden Productions

(7-17-04)

Peter Lim

Kermit Cintron KO 8 Teddy Reid

Houston, Texas: Cintron made the leap from prospect to contender by stopping seasoned veteran Reid in the eighth round at the Reliant Arena. Cintron maintained his poise and executed his signature razor-sharp combinations despite having to take it on the chin and in the gut—several times after the bell—harder and more frequently than in any previous bout.

"I just had to fight a smart fight, and that was it," Cintron said after the bout.

Both fighters answered the opening bell flicking light shots from range, but began mixing it up, trading solid uppercuts and bodypunches, as the relatively even round drew to a close. The difference in caliber between the two fighters became evident in round two as Cintron, 146½, Reading, Pennsylvania, via Puerto Rico, fluidly controlled the action with his jab and drilled Reid, 147, Washington, D.C., via Jamiaca, with double rights to the body and head while evading most of the incoming fire.

Reid upped his aggression level in the third and found his mark with stiff one-two combinations, overhand rights, and uppercuts. Unfazed, Cintron, 24, responded with brutal bodypunches that set up a thudding roundhouse right to the temple that dropped Reid, 32, at the end of the round.

Seizing the momentum, Cintron decided to showcase his entire arsenal in the fourth. Boxing circles around Reid, the younger fighter hooked off the jab, teed off with lead rights, and pierced through Reid's defense with pinpoint one-twos that staggered him on several occasions. Reid desperately swung back with reckless abandon to little avail, but caught Cintron on the chin with a cheap right after the bell, an infraction he repeated throughout the fight.

Ineffective from long range, Reid found a measure of success from round five on by closing the distance and forcing the fight into the trenches. While Cintron was connecting with cleaner, snappier hooks and uppercuts in the trenches, Reid roughed him up with enough clubbing lefts and rights to keep the fight fairly competitive. Whatever deficit Reid made up for with his bullying tactics, though, was diminished by point deductions he incurred in rounds five and seven for hitting on the break.

Cintron wisely reverted to boxing in the eighth round and soon caught Reid flush on the chin with a crackling one-two that wobbled his legs. Ever the opportunist, Cintron pounced on his wounded prey and pounded him to the canvas with a vicious right to the jaw. Reid, 22-6-1 (16), beat the count only to find Cintron, 24-0 (22), clobbering him with a relentless barrage that prompted referee Tim Adams (USA) to jump in and stop the fight at the 0:56 mark of the round.

Cradling his right arm (he said he injured it in the seventh round) in a makeshift sling after the fight, Cintron conceded that it was his toughest challenge to date.

"But the most important thing is I got my victory," Cintron said.

Television: HBO

Promoter: Main Events in association with Banner Promotions

(7-17-04)

Peter Lim ■

Boxing Fight Posters, Programs, Art Prints, T-Shirts, Photos & Autographs

GREAT MOMENTS IN BOXING

8"x10" B&W Action Photos — Just $4.50 ea.

- Robinson/LaMotta Fight
- Louis-Schmeling Battle
- Dempsey beats Willard
- Marciano slugs Lastarza
- Robinson beats Basilio
- Tunney/Dempsey Battle
- Sanchez/Lopez Battle
- Pep vs Saddler Fight
- Marciano's KOs Walcott
- Robinson slugs Gavilan
- Sanchez beats Gomez
- Ali floors Liston
- Hagler nails Hearns
- Leonard defeats Hearns
- Frazier upsets Ali
- Graziano - Zale classic
- Ali-Foreman Battle
- Marciano KO's Louis

8"x10" B&W Photos - Just $4.50 ea.

Ali • Basilio • Delahoya • Chavez • Corbett • Frazier
Dempsey • Duran • LaMotta • Leonard • J. Johnson
Jones Jr. • Louis • Marciano • Foreman • Hagler
Tyson • Sullivan • Robinson • Pep • Sanchez • Holyfield

8"x10" COLOR PHOTOS - $5.50 ea.

Ali • Delahoya • Hagler vs. Hearns • Chavez
Leonard vs. Hearns • Gatti • Duran • Foreman
Frazier • Hagler • Hearns • Mosley • Holyfield
Leonard • Mancini • Holyfield vs. Tyson • Louis
Ali vs. Frazier • Ali vs. Foreman • Ali KO's Liston
Marciano • Tyson • Jones Jr. • Hagler vs. Hearns

BASEBALL CAPS - $17 EA:

DELAHOYA/CAMACHO • PAZIENZA/DURAN • DELAHOYA/KAMAU
DELAHOYA/WHITAKER • HOLYFIELD/MOORER II • TYSON/BERBICK
PAZ/ROSENBLATT • DELAHOYA/RUELAS • TYSON/HOLYFIELD
HOLYFIELD/TYSON II • CHAVEZ/DELAHOYA • OSCAR DELAHOYA
DELAHOYA/CHAVEZ II • TYSON/RUDDOCK II • JONES/PAZIENZA
CHAVEZ/GAMACHE • MOORER/FOREMAN • DURAN/CAMACHO • F. TRINIDAD
JONES/GONZALEZ • DELAHOYA/CARR • F. MAYWEATHER/RIOS • R. DURAN
DELAHOYA/RIVERA • IRON MIKE TYSON • DELAHOYA/MOSLEY II
DELAHOYA/MOSLEY • DELAHOYA/QUARTEY • DELAHOYA/CHARPENTIER
MAYWHEATHR/HERNANDEZ • HAMED/BARRERA • DELAHOYA/GATTI

8 X 10 AUTOGRAPHED PHOTOS

MUHAMMAD ALI	$300.00
OSCAR DELAHOYA or ROY JONES	$80.00 ea.
JOE FRAZIER or FELIX TRINIDAD	$85.00 ea.
LARRY HOLMES or ANDREW GOLOTA	$45.00 ea.
MAX SCHMELING or ARCHIE MOORE	$75.00 ea.
JAKE LAMOTTA or BEAU JACK (BW)	$50.00 ea.
TIM WITHERSPOON or CARL WILLIAMS	$20.00 ea.
JOHN RUIZ or ERNIE SHAVERS	$25.00 ea.
WILLIE PEP or FERNANDO VARGAS	$45.00 ea.
SUGAR RAY LEONARD or FLOYD PATTERSON	$50.00 ea.
EMILE GRIFFITH or DANA ROSENBLATT	$15.00 ea.
LENNOX LEWIS	$85.00
CARMEN BASILIO or HECTOR CAMACHO	$35.00 ea.
CARLOS PALOMINO or M. TAYLOR	$35.00 ea.
SAAD MUHAMMAD or VINNY PAZ	$25.00 ea.
MARVIN HAGLER or KID GAVILAN (BW)	$75.00 ea.
EVANDER HOLYFIELD	$100.00
MIKE TYSON	$150.00
TOMMY MORRISON	$65.00
KEN NORTON or RAY MANCINI	$35.00 ea.
INGEMAR JOHANSSON or IRAN BARKLEY	$20.00 ea.
ROBERTO DURAN or ARTURO GATTI	$35.00 ea.

FIGHT T-SHIRTS

JONES/GONZALEZ • HOLYFIELD/RUIZ II • HOLYFIELD/MOORER II
DELAHOYA/CHAVEZ II • DURAN/CAMACHO • OLYMPIC TRIALS '93
CHAVEZ/TAYLOR • CHAVEZ/CAMACHO • O. DELAHOYA
ROY JONES JR. • TYSON/HOLYFIELD '91 • DELAHOYA/TRINIDAD
ROBERTO DURAN • LEONARD/DURAN II • MIKE TYSON
FELIX TRINIDAD • HAGLER/LEONARD • HAMED/BARRERA
MAYWHEATHER/HERNANDEZ • HOLYFIELD/HOLMES
DELAHOYA/KAMAU • DEALHOYA/WHITAKER • DELAHOYA/MOSLEY
TYSON/LEWIS • DELAHOYA/CARR & MAYWHEATHER/VARGAS
DELAHOYA/QUARTEY • PAZ/ROSENBLATT • MANCINI/CAMACHO
Vinny Pazienza • LEONARD/DURAN III • LEONARD/NORRIS
DeLaHoya/Mosley II • TRINIDAD/VARGAS • PAZIENZA/DURAN II
JULIO C. CHAVEZ • DELAHOYA/CAMACHO • SHANE MOSLEY
MUHAMMAD ALI • ROCKY MARCIANO • MOSLEY/STONE
CAMACHO/EDWARDS • HAGLER/HEARNS • MANCINI/HAUGEN
HECTOR CAMACHO • DELAHOYA/GATTI • MAYWHEATHER/RIOS
CHAVEZ/GAMACHE • ALI/NORTON • LEONARD/HEARNS

***Just $18.00 each* (choose XL or L)**

FIGHT POSTERS

CLAY/LISTON (repro.)	$25.00
CLAY/LISTON (repro.) on Canvas 40" x 24"	$250.00
ALI/FRAZIER I (LeRoy Neiman Poster)	$600.00
ALI/FRAZIER I (Closed Circuit) POSTER	$300.00
ALI/FRAZIER III (Reproduction)	$25.00
ALI/FRAZIER III (Closed Circuit) NEIMAN	$95.00
ALI/HOLMES (REPRINT)	$20.00
ALI/HOLMES	$100.00
ALI/FOREMAN (Closed Circuit) Poster	$500.00
BARRERA/JONES or BARRERA/DIAZ	$25.00 ea.
BOWE/GOLOTA or BOWE/GOLOTA II	$50.00 ea.
CAMACHO/ROSARIO or CHAVEZ/CAMACHO	$75.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/DELAHOYA or CHAVEZ/ALI	$10.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/LOPEZ or CHAVEZ/HAUGEN	$45.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/RANDALL, TRINIDAD/CAMACHO	$45.00
CHAVEZ/TAYLOR or CHAVEZ/TAYLOR II	$35.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/CAMACHO or DELAHOYA/RIVERA	$20.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/CAMPANELLA, Jones/Tate	$45.00
DELAHOYA/CHAVEZ II or DELAHOYA/TRINIDAD	$25.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/MOSLEY or DELAHOYA/MOSLEY II	$30.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/VARGAS or DELAHOYA/GATTI	$30.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/QUARTEY or DELAHOYA/CASTILLEJO	$20.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/QUARTEY (Spanish version)	$25.00
DELAHOYA/RUELAS or DELAHOYA/HERNANDEZ	$25.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/WHITAKER or DELAHOYA/GONZALEZ	$20.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/HICKS, MORRISON/TILLMAN	$50.00
JACK DEMPSEY 16"X 20" B&W POSTER	$45.00
DEMPSEY/WILLARD (Theatre)	$600.00
DEMPSEY/TUNNEY II (Repoduction)	$25.00
DURAN/BENITEZ or DURAN/CAMACHO	$25.00 ea.
FENECH/NELSON II or CZYZ/LALONDE	$45.00 ea.
FOREMAN/GRIMSLEY or FOREMAN/MORRISON	$30.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/CARR or FOREMAN/SAVARESE	$5.00 ea.
HAGLER/DURAN or FOREMAN/COONEY	$35.00 ea.
HAGLER/HEARNS or CHAVEZ/WHITAKER	$100.00 ea.
HAGLER/LEONARD or HAGLER/MUGABI	$65.00 ea.
HAMED/SOTO or HOPKINS/MERCARDO	$5.00 ea.
HEARNS/BARKLEY II or LAZARRAGA/MEDINA	$10.00 ea.
HEARNS/HILL or HEARNS/ROLDAN	$30.00 ea.
HOLMES/COONEY or HOLMES/SMITH	$35.00 ea.
HOLMES/MERCER or HOLYFIELD/HOLMES	$10.00 ea.
HOLMES/SHAVERS or HOLMES/M. SPINKS	$30.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/BOWE or HOLYFIELD/RAHMAN	$25.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/BOWE III or CHAVEZ/RAMIREZ	$75.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/BYRD or TAPIA/AYALA	$20.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/CZYZ or HOLYFIELD/FOREMAN	$35.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/MERCER or HAMED/BARRERA	$45.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/MOORER I or II	$20.00 ea.
JONES/GRANT or JONES/MCCALLUM	$35.00 ea.
JONES/GRIFFIN II or JONES/JOHNSON	$20.00 ea.
JONES/HARDING or JONES/HARMON	$25.00 ea.
JONES/TONEY or JONES/YARBROUGH	$200.00
JONES/GONZALEZ or MCCULLOUGH/ZARAGOSA	$15.00 ea.
LEONARD/DURAN II	$40.00
LEONARD/DURAN III or LEONARD/LALONDE	$45.00 ea.
LEONARD/HEARNS I or II	$40.00 ea.
LEWIS/GOLOTA or LEWIS/TUCKER	$10.00 ea.
LEWIS/MCCALL or LEWIS/BRIGGS	$35.00 ea.
LEWIS/GRANT or LEWIS/BOTHA	$30.00 ea.
LEWIS/RAHMAN or LEWIS/TYSON	$25.00 ea.
MANCINI/CAMACHO or MORRISON/LEWIS	$45.00 ea.
MANCINI/CHACON or HEARNS/OBEL	$20.00 ea.
MARCIANO/WALCOTT (Reprint) or LEWIS/TUA	$25.00 ea.
MAYWHEATHER/CORRALES or MAYWHEATHER/CASTILLO I or II	$10.00 ea.
MORALES/BARRERA II (English or Spanish)	$20.00 ea.
MORALES/MCCULLOUGH or MORALES/RAMIREZ	$5.00 ea
MORRISON/HIDE or SAVARESE/DOUGLAS	$10.00 ea.
MORRISON/MERCER or TYSON/GOLOTA	$35.00 ea.
MOSLEY/TAYLOR or MOSLEY/DIAZ	$10.00 ea.
PAZIENZA/JONES or NUNN/KALAMBAY	$45.00 ea.
PAZIENZA/CAMACHO or PAZIENZA/DURAN	$50.00 ea.
PAZIENZA/DURAN II or PAZIENZA/ROSENBLATT	$20.00 ea.
TRINIDAD/WHITAKER or TRINIDAD/PETTWAY	$20.00 ea.
TRINIDAD/THIAM or TRINIDAD/VARGAS	$35.00 ea.
TRINIDAD/CHERIFI or TRIPLE HITTER - Duran/Sims	$25.00
TYSON/BERBICK (LeRoy Neiman)	$150.00
TYSON/BRUNO II or TYSON/MCNEELEY	$20.00 ea.
TYSON/DOUGLAS	$225.00
TYSON/HOLMES or TYSON/BIGGS	$35.00 ea.
TYSON/HOLYFIELD '91 (Cancelled)	$25.00
TYSON/HOLYFIELD '96 or TYSON/SELDON	$65.00
TYSON/HOLYFIELD II - 5/3/97 (Cancelled)	$5.00
TYSON/HOLYFIELD II	$10.00
TYSON/STEWART or TYSON/FRANCIS	$50.00 ea.
TYSON/TUBBS or TYSON/THOMAS	$150.00 ea.
TYSON/TUCKER or TYSON/TILLMAN	$45.00 ea.
MIKE TYSON or SUGAR RAY LEONARD Sports Ill. Poster	$15.00
MUHAMMAD ALI – Everlast Poster	$15.00

FIGHT PROGRAMS

ALI/BUGNER or ALI/MATHIS	$400.00 ea.
ALI/COOPER II or ALI/LONDON	$350.00 ea.
ALI/FOREMAN or ALI/BUGNER (Closed Circuits)	$100.00 ea.
ALI/FRAZIER or ALI/INOKI (Closed Circuits)	$150.00 ea.
ALI/FRAZIER or ALI/MILDENBERGER	$1000.00 ea.
ALI/FRAZIER II or FRAZIER/FOREMAN	$500.00 ea.
ALI/FRAZIER III (Closed Circuit)	$100.00
ALI/HOLMES or ALI/NORTON III	$125.00 ea.
ALI/NORTON (warehouse find) Now just	$75.00
ALI/NORTON II or ALI/YOUNG	$600.00 ea.
ALI/QUARRY II or TYSON/GREEN	$500.00 ea.
ALI/ROBINSON or ALI/WILLIAMS	$450.00 ea.
ALI/SPINKS (VG) or ALI/SPINKS II	$250.00 ea.
BENN/MCCLELLAN or HAGLER/HAMSHO II	$50.00 ea.
BOWE/GOLOTA I or II	$35.00 ea.
CAMACHO/DURAN or CAMACHO/RAMIREZ	$25.00 ea.
CAMACHO/ROSARIO, plus Tyson	$50.00
CARBAJAL/GONZALEZ Delahoya/J. Mayweather	$50.00
CHAVEZ/CAMACHO or DELAHOYA/TRINIDAD	$40.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/KAMAU or PAZ/LUCAS	$10.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/MAYWHEATHER II or SAAD/BRAXTON	$25.00 ea.
CHAVEZ/TAYLOR or CHAVEZ/RANDALL	$35.00 ea.
DELAHOYA PRO DEBUT or FRAZIER/FOREMAN	$500.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/CHAVEZ II or DELAHOYA/CARR	$30.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/GATTI or DELAHOYA/CHARPENTIER	$25.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/QUARTEY or DELAHOYA/TYSON	$45.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/MOSLEY or DELAHOYA/MOSLEY II	$35.00 ea.
DELAHOYA/WHITAKER or HOLYFIELD/MOORER	$45.00 ea.
DURAN/GONZALEZ '99 or FOREMAN/STEWART	$45.00 ea.
FOREMAN/QAWI or VARGAS/QUARTEY	$35.00 ea.
GATTI/ROBINSON II, VARGAS/CAMPAS	$45.00
HAGLER/HEARNS or HAGLER/ROLDAN	$66.00 ea.
HAGLER/MUGABI or HAGLER/OBEL	$45.00 ea.
HAMED/KELLY or HAMED/BARRERA	$40.00 ea.
HEARNS/BARKLEY I or II	$35.00 ea.
HEARNS/HILL or HEARNS/ROLDAN	$25.00 ea.
HOLMES/MERCER or LEONARD/CAMACHO	$15.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/BOWE I, II or III	$75.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/FOREMAN or HOLYFIELD/LEWIS	$75.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/HOLMES or CAMACHO/HAUGEN II	$35.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/LEWIS II or HOLYFIELD/RUIZ II	$25.00 ea.
HOLYFIELD/QAWI or PALOMINO/STRACY	$150.00 ea.
ROY JONES PRO DEBUT or SANCHEZ/LOPEZ	$600.00 ea.
JONES/DELVALLE or JONES/JOHNSON	$30.00 ea.
JONES/SOSA or JONES/GRIFFIN	$25.00 ea.
LEONARD/DURAN	$125.00
LEONARD/DURAN II	$50.00
LEONARD/HEARNS I or II	$65.00 ea.
LEWIS/BRUNO or LEWIS/MCCALL	$45.00 ea.
LEWIS/TUCKER or LEWIS/GOLOTA	$30.00 ea.
LEWIS/TUA or LEWIS/RUDDOCK	$50.00 ea.
LOUIS/NOVA or ROBINSON/DOWNES	$500.00 ea.
MANCINI/CAMACHO or PALOMINO/GREEN	$75.00 ea.
MANCINI/CHACON or MANCINI/ESPANA	$25.00 ea.
PAZIENZA/BURGESE & JONES JR./JOHNSON	$60.00
PAZIENZA/DURAN I or II	$25.00 ea.
PAZIENZA/JONES or PAZIENZA/GRAHAM	$40.00 ea.
SANCHEZ/GOMEZ or ROBINSON/TURPIN	$300.00 ea.
TYSON/FRANCIS or MANCINI/BRAMBLE II	$50.00 ea.
TYSON/BRUNO or TYSON/HOLMES	$100.00 ea.
TYSON/HOLYFIELD I or II	$20.00 ea.
TYSON/MCNEELEY or TYSON/NORRIS	$15.00 ea.
TYSON/SPINKS or TYSON/NEILSEN	$85.00 ea.
TYSON/SMITH or TYSON/SAVARESE	$45.00 ea.
TYSON/STEWART or TYSON/TILLMAN	$75.00 ea.
TYSON/TUBBS or TYSON/DOUGLAS	$250.00 ea.
TYSON/BIGGS or TYSON/BRUNO II	$80.00 ea.
TYSON/RIBALTA or TYSON/NELSON	$1000.00 ea.

AUTOGRAPHED BOXING GLOVES
(Single Gloves, Guaranteed Authentic)

Roberto Duran or Vinny Pazienza	$110.00 ea.
Joe Frazier or Jake LaMotta	$175.00 ea.
Muhammad Ali or Evander Holyfield	$400.00 ea.
Marvin Hagler or Bernard Hopkins	$150.00 ea.
Sugar Ray Leonard	$100.00 ea.
Ray Mancini or Arturo Gatti	$100.00 ea.
Shane Mosley or Michael Spinks	$150.00 ea.
Mike Tyson	$250.00
Larry Holmes or Tommy Morrison	$125.00 ea.
Oscar de la Hoya or Roy Jones	$195.00 ea.
Carmen Basilio or Vito Antuofermo	$95.00 ea.
Archie Moore or Lennox Lewis	$200.00 ea.
LEONARD & DURAN (By Both)	$200.00
Felix Trinidad or Fernando Vargas	$175.00
Willie Pep or Kid Gavilan	$175.00
Hector Camacho or Alexis Arguello	$125.00

R.I.P. Boxing.com

Ordering Info.: Please include $7 P&H per package (Foreign Countries $15 per package ground or $25 air)
Send To: Bob Pace, P.O. Box 698, Lynnfield, MA 01940 or call w/AMEX, Disc., VISA or MC — (781) 284-4954

CLASSIC

From THE RING, September 1990

JUNIOR FEATHER CHAMP PAUL BANKE

His Interest Rate Is Rising

By Jeff Ryan

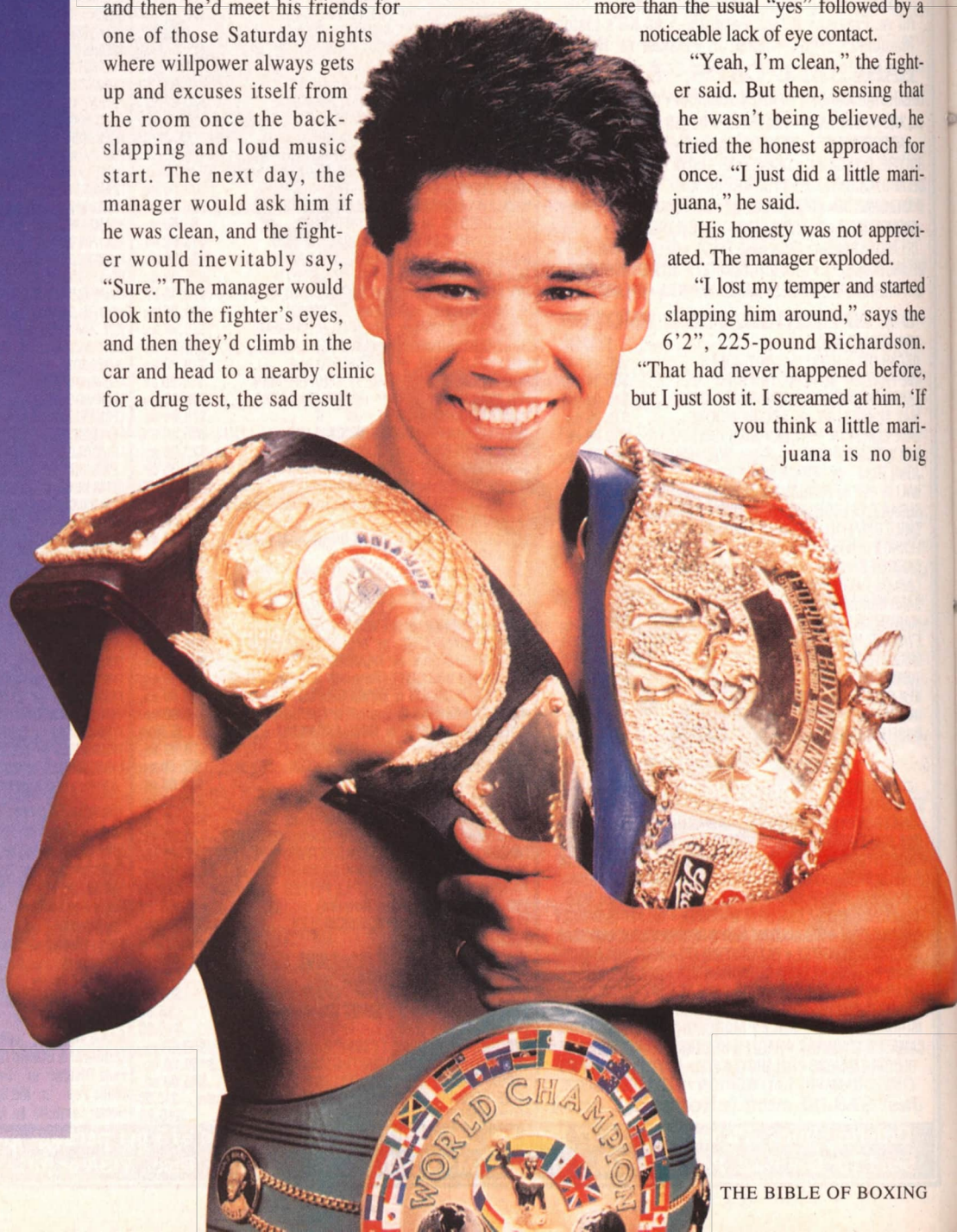
They'd played out this scenario so many times before. The fighter would be off the junk for weeks, sometimes months, and then he'd meet his friends for one of those Saturday nights where willpower always gets up and excuses itself from the room once the back-slapping and loud music start. The next day, the manager would ask him if he was clean, and the fighter would inevitably say, "Sure." The manager would look into the fighter's eyes, and then they'd climb in the car and head to a nearby clinic for a drug test, the sad result of which they both already knew.

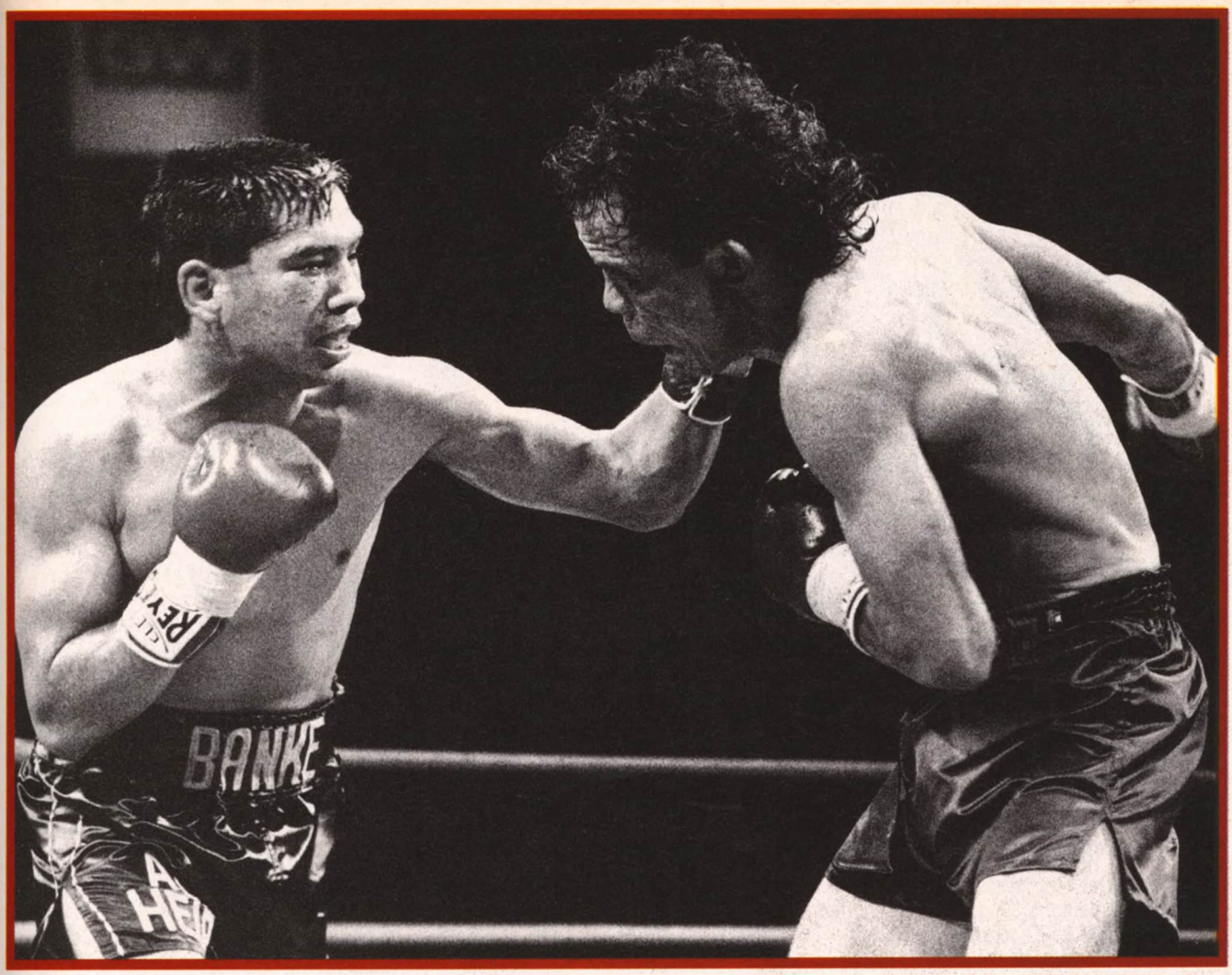
But this Sunday morning was different from all the rest. This time, when Bob Richardson stood in the kitchen of his Quail Valley, California, house and asked Paul Banke if he'd been clean, he got more than the usual "yes" followed by a noticeable lack of eye contact.

"Yeah, I'm clean," the fighter said. But then, sensing that he wasn't being believed, he tried the honest approach for once. "I just did a little marijuana," he said.

His honesty was not appreciated. The manager exploded.

"I lost my temper and started slapping him around," says the 6'2", 225-pound Richardson. "That had never happened before, but I just lost it. I screamed at him, 'If you think a little marijuana is no big





Banke put on the performance of his life when he stopped future Hall of Famer Daniel Zaragoza to win the WBC super bantamweight belt and avenge an earlier loss. It was a reckless display of fighting by Banke, but an effective one.

deal, that's your whole f---ing problem right there!' Even though Paul is small [5'4½" and 122 pounds], he never let anyone in his life put their hands on him like that. He started crying, and then I started crying, too."

For "The Real" Paul Banke, super bantamweight contender, sampler of marijuana and speed, indulger of alcohol and cocaine, and full-time migraine for an overly understanding manager pushed to the edge of his patience, this day in the spring of 1989 would prove to be the last straw.

Literally.

***

Paul Banke is trying desperately, oh, so desperately, to stifle a laugh. He is not doing a very good job of it. "Oooh, that face," he says, finally giving up the struggle. "It was outrageous. Scary! I didn't want to look him in the face. I shouldn't be talkin' s---, but that guy was ugly."

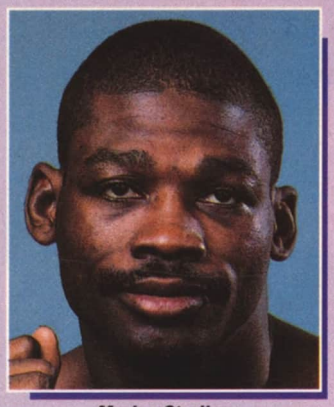
The guy he's talking about is Mexico's Daniel Zaragoza, no Newman or Cruise to start with, but an old man and a walking shipwreck when Banke's fists got done with him at the Great Western Forum in April. In an inspired performance, the 26-year-old Banke, oblivious to the countless combinations bouncing off his face, stalked the WBC super bantamweight king relentlessly for eight rounds before flooring him twice in the ninth. The second knockdown, the result of a gorgeous left to the jaw, dropped Zaragoza on his side and inspired referee John Thomas to stop the fight and end the Mexican's reign after 26 months and six title defenses.

When Zaragoza, who led by three, four, and six points at the time of the stoppage, walked across the ring to offer the new champion congratulations, his lips were red and raw, and his eyes were slits from which small trickles of blood dripped in neat, straight lines down his cheeks. He looked less like a vanquished champion and more like a mime with a bad makeup job, or worse, a clown. One with nothing to smile about.

In their first meeting, in June 1989 at the Forum, it was Banke who looked like the clown. He mugged for the crowd, smiled, made silly faces, and talked to Zaragoza throughout the early rounds. But he rallied late, flooring Zaragoza in round nine for only the second knockdown of the Mexican's career. At the final bell, Banke thought he'd done enough to win. He bounced on his toes gleefully as the split decision was being read, but when he heard ring announcer Jimmy Lennon Jr. intone, " ... and still WBC super bantamweight champion," he dropped to his knees in despair.

"I clowned too much, and my family sure put me down for it, but I did it out of nervousness," Banke now says. "I was so

THE RING RATINGS, September 1990



Marlon Starling

HEAVYWEIGHTS
1. **Buster Douglas,** Columbus, OH
2. **Mike Tyson,** Catskill, NY
3. **Evander Holyfield,** Atlanta, GA
4. **Razor Ruddock,** Canada
5. **Tim Witherspoon,** Philadelphia, PA
6. **Francesco Damiani,** Italy
7. **Carl Williams,** White Plains, NY
8. **Tony Tucker,** Big Oaks, CA
9. **Alex Stewart,** Brooklyn, NY
10. **Renaldo Snipes,** Yonkers, NY

CRUISERWEIGHTS
1. **Carlos DeLeon,** Puerto Rico
2. **Taoufik Belbouli,** France
3. **Jeff Lampkin,** Youngstown, OH
4. **Robert Daniels,** Miami, FL
5. **Nate Miller,** Philadelphia, PA
6. **Anaclet Wamba,** France
7. **Glenn McCrory,** England
8. **Mike Hunter,** Las Vegas, NV
9. **Johnny Nelson,** England
10. **Boone Pultz,** Tyler, TX

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
1. **Virgil Hill,** Las Vegas, NV
2. **Prince Charles Williams,** Mansfield, OH
3. **Michael Moorer,** Detroit, MI
4. **Jeff Harding,** Australia
5. **Dennis Andries,** Detroit, MI
6. **Andrew Maynard,** Laurel, MD
7. **Leslie Stewart,** Trinidad & Tobago
8. **Joe Lasisi,** Las Vegas, NV
9. **Eric Nicoletta,** France
10. **Anthony Hembrick,** Detroit, MI

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
1. **Ray Leonard,** Potomac, MD
2. **Thomas Hearns,** Las Vegas, NV
3. **Christophe Tiozzo,** France
4. **Lindell Holmes,** Detroit, MI
5. **Antoine Byrd,** Los Angeles, CA
6. **Frank Tate,** Houston, TX
7. **Dario Matteoni,** Argentina
8. **James Kinchen,** San Diego, CA
9. **Victor Cordova,** Panama
10. **Juan Carlos Gimenez,** Paraguay

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
1. **Michael Nunn,** Los Angeles, CA
2. **Sumbu Kalambay,** Italy
3. **Mike McCallum,** Brooklyn, NY
4. **Roberto Duran,** Miami, FL
5. **Iran Barkley,** Bronx, NY
6. **Herol Graham,** England
7. **Michael Watson,** England
8. **Nigel Benn,** England
9. **Donald Curry,** Fort Worth, TX
10. **Steve Collins,** Brockton, MA

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
1. **Julian Jackson,** Virgin Islands
2. **Gianfranco Rosi,** Italy
3. **Terry Norris,** Mission Valley, CA
4. **John Mugabi,** Tampa, FL
5. **John David Jackson,** Tucson, AZ
6. **Rene Jacquot,** France
7. **Darrin Van Horn,** Lexington, KY
8. **Chris Pyatt,** England
9. **Jorge Castro,** Argentina
10. **Julio Cesar Vazquez,** Argentina

WELTERWEIGHTS
1. **Marlon Starling,** South Windsor, CT
2. **Simon Brown,** Germantown, MD
3. **Mark Breland,** Brooklyn, NY
4. **Buddy McGirt,** Brentwood, NY
5. **Maurice Blocker,** Washington, D.C.
6. **Glenwood Brown,** Plainfield, NJ
7. **Aaron Davis,** Bronx, NY
8. **Tyrone Trice,** Detroit, MI
9. **Antoine Fernandez,** France
10. **Genaro Leon,** Mexico

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
1. **Julio Cesar Chavez,** Mexico
2. **Meldrick Taylor,** Philadelphia, PA
3. **Juan Coggi,** Argentina
4. **Roger Mayweather,** Las Vegas, NV
5. **Hector Camacho,** Big Cypress, FL
6. **Loreto Garza,** Sacramento, CA
7. **Louie Lomeli,** Melrose Park, IL
8. **Frankie Randall,** Morristown, TN
9. **Santos Cardona,** New York, NY
10. **Sammy Fuentes,** Puerto Rico

LIGHTWEIGHTS
1. **Pernell Whitaker,** Norfolk, VA
2. **Juan Nazario,** Puerto Rico
3. **Tracy Spann,** Plainfield, NJ
4. **Freddie Pendleton,** Miami, FL
5. **Greg Haugen,** Henderson, NV
6. **Edwin Rosario,** Puerto Rico
7. **John Duplessis,** New Orleans, LA
8. **David Gonzales,** San Jose, CA
9. **Poli Diaz,** Spain
10. **Pedro Sanchez,** New York, NY

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
1. **Azumah Nelson,** Ghana
2. **John-John Molina,** Puerto Pico
3. **Brian Mitchell,** South Africa
4. **Jeff Fenech,** Australia
5. **Tony Lopez,** Sacramento, CA
6. **Genaro Hernandez,** Los Angeles, CA
7. **Bernard Taylor,** Knoxville, TN
8. **Juan Laporte,** New York, NY
9. **Joey Gamache,** Lewiston, ME
10. **Mario Martinez,** Mexico

FEATHERWEIGHTS
1. **Antonio Esparragoza,** Venezuela
2. **Jorge Paez,** Mexico
3. **Troy Dorsey,** Dallas, TX
4. **Louie Espinoza,** Phoenix, AZ
5. **Maurizio Stecca,** Italy
6. **Pee Wee Parker,** Houston, TX
7. **Marcos Villasana,** Mexico
8. **Ricardo Cepeda,** Bronx, NY
9. **Paul Hodkinson,** England
10. **Rafael Zuniga,** Colombia

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
1. **Paul Banke,** Quail Valley, CA
2. **Jesse Benavides,** Corpus Christi, TX
3. **Daniel Zaragoza,** Mexico
4. **Jesus Salud,** San Diego, CA
5. **Welcome Ncita,** South Africa
6. **Seung Hoon Lee,** South Korea
7. **Tracy Patterson,** New Paltz, NY
8. **Pedro Decima,** Argentina
9. **Jemal Hinton,** District Heights, MD
10. **Noree Jockygym,** Thailand

pumped up that my trainer, Steve Rosenszeig, was telling me things, and he said it was like I wasn't even there. I knew the fight was close, but it was on my turf and I thought I won, so I was confident they'd give it to me. Looking back at it on tape, I don't think I won. He outsmarted me."

Banke's admission of defeat is a rare one for a fighter, especially one who had earned the favor of one of the judges. But the fighter didn't really have a chance to delude himself. Immediately after the bout, when Banke was still thinking he'd been robbed, Richardson made his own feelings clear. He, like the other two judges, thought Zaragoza had won.

Richardson, if you haven't already noticed, has always been right there to act as the cattle-prod whenever Banke needs to be shocked back into reality. He first met the Mexican-American fighter in 1987, when Banke fought on some cards Richardson promoted in Southern California. Richardson was impressed, and invited Banke to the All Heart Boxing Club, Richardson's five-acre compound in Quail Valley (an hour's drive east of Los Angeles)

BANTAMWEIGHTS
1. **Raul Perez,** Mexico
2. **Orlando Canizales,** Laredo, TX
3. **Luisito Espinosa,** Philippines
4. **Israel Contreras,** Venezuela
5. **Wilfredo Vasquez,** Puerto Rico
6. **Pepillo Valdez,** Mexico
7. **Gerardo Martinez,** San Jose, CA
8. **Hurley Snead,** Detroit, MI
9. **Billy Hardy,** England
10. **Greg Richardson,** Youngstown, OH

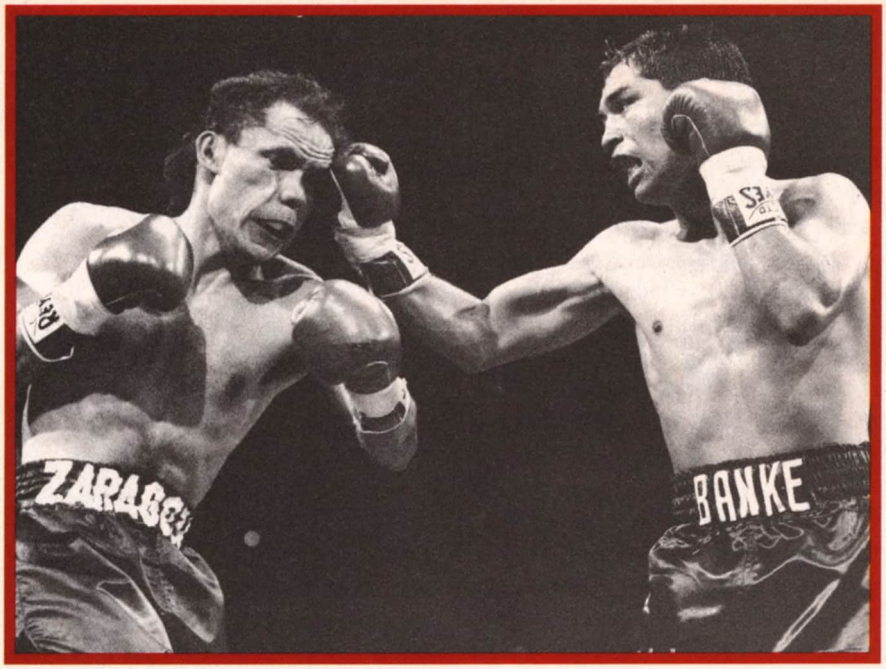
JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
1. **Khaosai Galaxy,** Thailand
2. **Moon Sung Kil,** South Korea
3. **Nana Konadu,** Ghana
4. **Robert Quiroga,** San Antonio, TX
5. **Gilberto Roman,** Mexico
6. **Jose Ruiz,** Puerto Rico
7. **Thanomsak Sithbaobey,** Thailand
8. **Shunichi Nakajima,** Japan
9. **Kid Akeem,** Las Vegas, NV
10. **Johnny Tapia,** Albuquerque, NM

FLYWEIGHTS
1. **Sot Chitalada,** Thailand
2. **Yul Woo Lee,** South Korea
3. **Dave McAuley,** Ireland
4. **Jung Koo Chang,** South Korea
5. **Jesus Rojas,** Venezuela
6. **Richard Clarke,** Jamaica
7. **Javier Lucas,** Mexico
8. **Leopard Tamakuma,** Japan
9. **Romy Navarette,** Philippines
10. **Yong Kang Kim,** South Korea

POUND-FOR-POUND
1. **Julio Cesar Chavez,** Junior Welterweight
2. **Pernell Whitaker,** Lightweight
3. **Michael Nunn,** Middleweight
4. **Antonio Esparragoza,** Featherweight
5. **Meldrick Taylor,** Junior Welterweight
6. **Buster Douglas,** Heavyweight
7. **Mike Tyson,** Heavyweight
8. **Raul Perez,** Bantamweight
9. **Azumah Nelson,** Junior Lightweight
10. **Yuh Myung Woo,** Light Flyweight

that featured a gym, a dining hall, and several houses and trailers.

His original intention was to have Banke spar with one of his fighters, Jorge Diaz. But Diaz proved to be an attitude problem and was soon sent packing. At roughly the same time, Banke's manager, Oscar Garcia, was peddling Banke's contract for $2,000. A steal. Except Richardson wasn't quite sure



At the time the fight was stopped in the ninth round, Zaragoza led by three, four, and six points on the judges' cards. But Banke's constant pressure and heavy punches had a telling effect on the Mexican veteran, whose facial features were distorted after the fight.

who would be the one doing the stealing.

"I knew about Paul's drug problems and that he would be a hard fighter to deal with," he says. "He had a difficult reputation. But I bought the contract. Since we've been with him, 80 percent of our work has been getting his personal life together. Only 20 percent has been boxing."

The boxing part was something Banke never had a problem with. He'd won 150 of 175 amateur bouts, displaying fast hands and excellent technical skills (news that would come as a surprise to anyone who witnessed the reckless Zaragoza rematch), and made it to the semifinals of the 1984 Olympic Trials as a flyweight, losing a 4-1 decision to eventual gold medalist Steve McCrory. And as a pro, he learned to plant

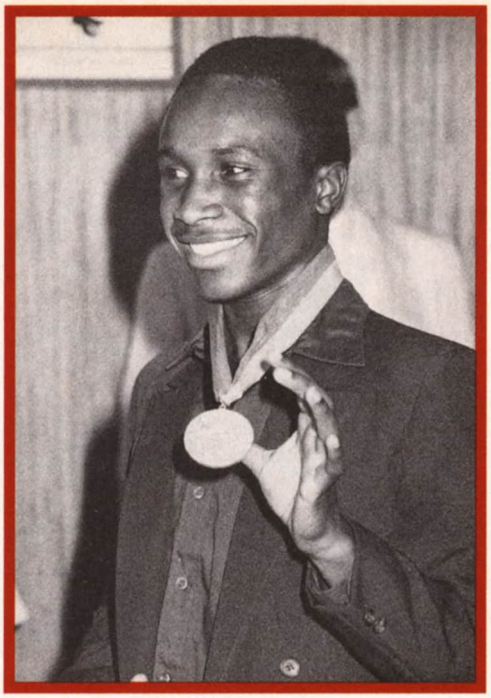
In their first meeting, in June 1989 at the Great Western Forum, Banke took the brunt of Zaragoza's attack. But an immature Banke also hurt himself by clowning when he should have been fighting.

his feet while punching, soon discovering kayo power in both fists.

The power of cocaine he discovered in November 1985, after his third pro fight, a two-round kayo of Miguel Rodella. Banke had $1,500 in his pocket (so much for cocaine being the "rich man's drug") and celebration in his soul. He went to a party. Any other specifics faded away into a cloud of white powder.

"I tried it, and a week later I tried it again," he says. "I was working construction at the time, and I'd go off cocaine for two months, then fight and get some money, and go back on. I kept saying that I didn't have a drug problem. Compared to my friends, I didn't."

He won 10 of his first 12 fights before suffering a crushing seventh-round kayo defeat to rising contender Jesus Poll in August 1987. It was the worst performance of Banke's career; he was put down three times before the carnage was stopped. He says simply, "He was really smart, and I wasn't in the best condition."



Steve McCrory shows off the gold medal he won in the 1984 Olympics. To get to the Games, McCrory beat Banke by decision at the Olympic Trials.

Is not in the best condition a euphemism for fighting in a stupor? Banke insists he never went into the ring under the influence, but Richardson says, "He admitted to me that he did drugs before a couple fights. One in particular he told me was the Poll fight. Sometimes it was the only way he'd get the courage to go in there when he knew he was out of shape."

Banke's first fight under Richardson's guidance was an opening-round bout in the Forum's super bantamweight tournament in March 1988. The tourney promised purse money of $100,000 to the winner, as well as valuable exposure on the Prime Ticket cable network. Oh, yeah, and there were some great perks. Like ogling the Forum's round-card girls. And getting to meet Eddie Murphy, Chuck Norris, and the other Forum celebrity regulars. And best of all, getting to dress in the same locker room used by Banke's beloved Lakers.

"Right in front of Magic and Kareem's lockers," he says, making no attempt to hide his enthusiasm. "Their uniforms weren't hanging there, though." He laughs. "If they were, they would've been gone."

Banke decisioned Lucilo Nolasco in the opening bout, and then kayoed Alberto Mercado in the quarters. In the semis, he squeaked by 1984 Olympian Robert Shannon with a disputed unanimous decision. Then, his trademark body attack forced Carlos Romero to do a "no mas" in the 11th round of the title bout. A virtual unknown, Banke had found a Forum for his skills. Suddenly, he was being talked about as a threat for a world crown.

But first, Richardson had to stop him from being a threat to himself. Their Sunday morning confrontation last year was followed by AA meetings, counseling, and the decision to sometimes make Banke a virtual prisoner of the All Heart camp. Banke hasn't touched drugs or alcohol since.

"I never gave up on him," Richardson says, "because when I tightened the reigns, he never took off and said, 'Go to hell.' That told me he wanted to help himself."

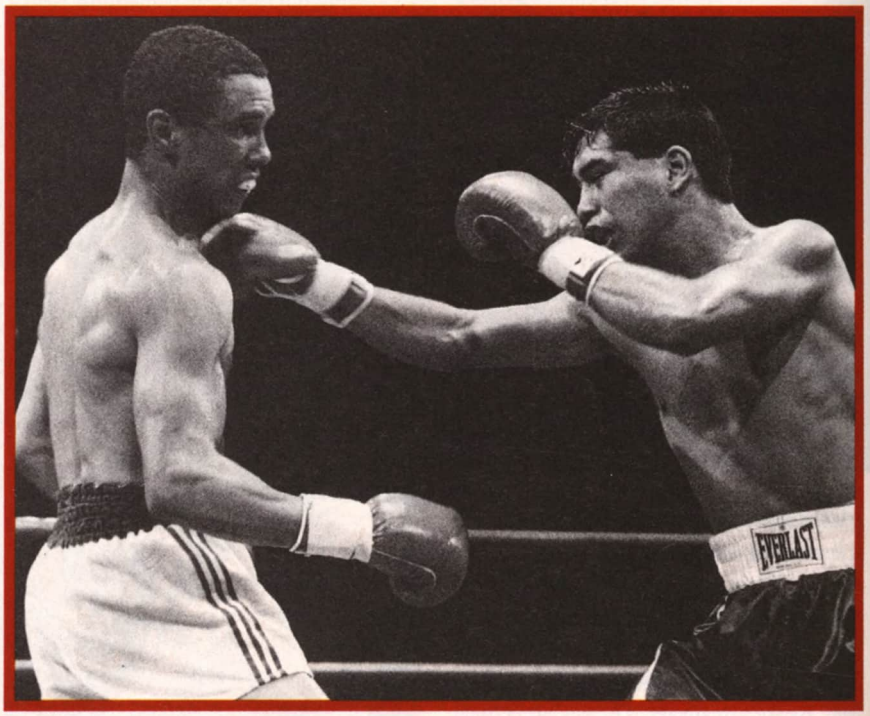
As a reward for his sobriety, Richardson gave his fighter a nickname.

"He never liked the name, 'The Real' Paul Banke," the manager says. "Not until he heard Jimmy Lennon Jr. say it in the ring. But it's perfect. On the night he became world champion, everybody realized they never saw the real Paul Banke fight before. They only saw a guy who was under the influence of drugs."

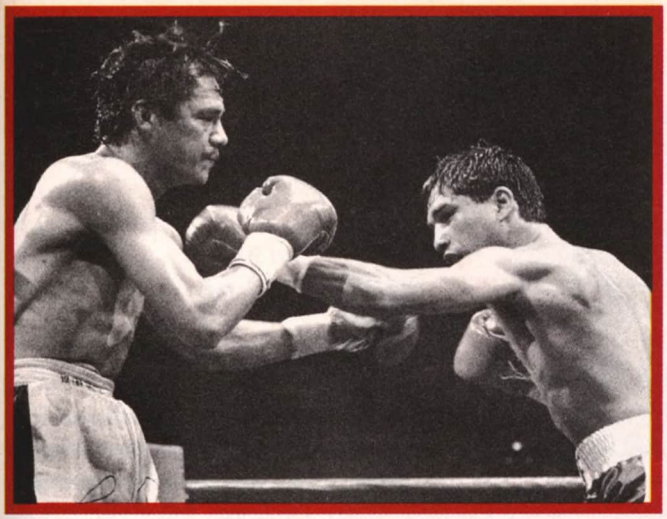
***

"I'm just a poor Mexican," Banke says with a chuckle. "Last year was the first time I ever had to pay taxes. Bob told me I owed the government $12,000. I said, 'You're kidding. Do I have to pay that much?' I felt like running away and hiding somewhere."

The truth is, in the future, Banke really wouldn't mind having the taxman in his face. That would at least mean he was making some money. For him, building a bank



Banke's first move toward the top of the 122-pound class came with a victory in the Forum's super bantamweight tournament in March 1988. En route to the championship, Banke scored a close decision over '84 Olympian Robert Shannon in the semifinals.



In the tournament finals, Banke used a fierce body attack to force Carlos Romero to surrender in the 11th round, securing the $100,000 top prize. Banke used part of the money to buy a trailer.

account as a 122-pounder should prove to be as challenging as holding on to the title. For engaging Zaragoza in one of the most action-packed bouts of the year, Banke received $15,000, about a tenth of what some mandatory contenders get as a step-aside fee. He took home roughly $7,000. Of the $100,000 he was paid for winning the Forum tourney, he walked away with $46,000.

Banke's only extravagance, if you could call it that, has been a trailer he bought for $16,000 and moved onto the All Heart grounds. But it is proving to be the smartest investment he ever made. Last year, his fiancee, Christina Rodriguez, and their two-year-old son, Marty, moved in with him. Recently, Christina gave birth to their second child, a girl named Paula.

"Getting engaged has had a calming effect on him," says Richardson. "Things have gotten a lot better since his fiancee moved in with him. She's helped him to stay clean."

"Before it was just my butt at stake when I took drugs," Banke says. "Now, it's my family. I have a responsibility. I want to see my kids grow up. I want to make life easy for them and make them proud of me."

Banke's next outing will be a July meeting with brawling South Korean Seung Hoon Lee. Embarrassed by his recklessness in winning the title, Banke has promised that his hand speed, boxing skills, and lateral movement will be on display in his first defense.

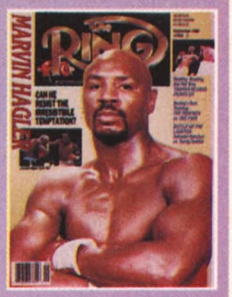
And while that fight can hardly be considered a sure win—Lee, a former world champion, fought Zaragoza to a draw in 1988—Richardson is already planning a third Zaragoza fight for the Forum in late-summer or early-fall.

Like it or not, Banke is going to have to look Zaragoza in the face again some night. But one demon at a time. For now, he'll just concentrate on being able to look Richardson in the face every Sunday morning.

***

ADDENDUM: Banke lost the WBC super bantamweight belt to Pedro Decima in his second defense, then lost a unanimous decision to Zaragoza in their December 9, 1991, rubber match. Banke lost the last four fights of his career, and retired in 1993 with a 21-9 (11) record. On August 21, 1995, he found out he had contracted AIDS. Banke, 40, is still alive and living in Quail Valley, California. ■

THE RING, September 1990

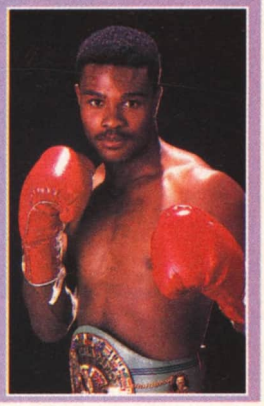


***The Cover*:** There was much talk in the boxing world that, three years after his retirement, Marvelous Marvin Hagler was thinking about coming back and trying to avenge his loss to Ray Leonard. One theory held that Hagler was ready to return because the terms of his divorce were settled, leaving his ex-wife Bertha with no claims to any money from a multimillion-dollar rematch. But Hagler's advisers vehemently denied all comeback rumors.

***Hearns Unwisely Fights On*:** THE RING broached the topic of why Tommy Hearns continued to fight. "The Hit Man" certainly wasn't living up to his hard-hitting legacy, since he hadn't knocked anyone out in nearly three years. Some experts considered the 31-year-old Hearns a used-up fighter.

***Puncher vs. Chin*:** THE RING took a look at what happened when fighters with great chins met big punchers with weak chins. Among the matches examined was the 1980 war between cement-chinned Tex Cobb and murderous-punching Earnie Shavers, which Cobb won via eighth-round kayo.

***Beau Knows Boxing*:** Though down on his luck, legendary former lightweight champ Beau Jack still managed a smile when he reminisced about his great career. Jack was working as a trainer at the Fifth Street Gym in Miami Beach when THE RING caught up to him.



***Fighter Of The Month*:** Terry Norris could have used his superior speed and boxing skills to supplant John "The Beast" Mugabi as the WBC super welterweight titlist. Instead, Norris attacked and pulled off a surprise by stopping the favored Mugabi in the first round, in Mugabi's adopted home of Tampa, Florida.

COME OUT WRITING

Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. Or e-mail letters to comeoutwriting@yahoo.com. E-mailed letters will include the writer's e-mail address unless a city and state of origin is provided.

EASTMAN SHAFTED

I am very upset over the fact that number-one middleweight contender Howard Eastman has to sit on the sidelines and watch his well-earned title shot be handed over to the most overrated eight-round whiner in the business, Oscar De La Hoya. Why didn't Oscar have to fight an eliminator with Eastman? Oscar wasn't even ranked in the division. He just arrived and yelled, "Lucy, I'm home." Never fear, Howard, when Bernard Hopkins derails and dissects Oscar like a laboratory frog, you will get your title shot.

FELIX FONTENOT
Smith River, CA

WHO MISSES MAX?

I think *Friday Night Fights* has improved since Max Kellerman left. I really enjoy the new format of having a boxing champion as a guest commentator. Wouldn't most fans prefer the insights of fighters like Antonio Tarver, Bernard Hopkins, James Toney, and Marvin Hagler to listening to Max fawn over the greatness of Zab Judah and Paul Spadafora?

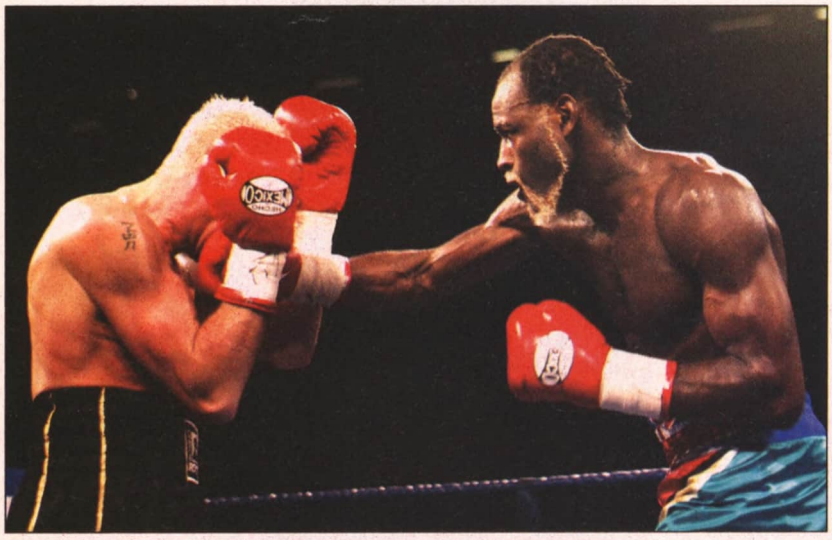
However, I think Teddy Atlas could improve. I respect his knowledge, but he should try a bit more blow-by-blow commentary instead of endlessly discussing the fighters' records and past performances, etc. Also, Teddy's dismissive tirades against Mike Tyson are totally uncalled for. He obviously has a personal axe to grind against Iron Mike. But Tyson is not the stumblebum Teddy makes him out to be. Still, on the whole, *Friday Night Fights*' commentary is becoming as good as HBO's. Thanks, ESPN2. Keep the former champs coming, and I'll keep watching.

NATHAN RESIKA
nateresi@hotmailcom

ON SECOND THOUGHT ...

I recently watched the Felix Trinidad-Oscar De La Hoya fight for the first time since it aired live. The first time I watched it I thought De La Hoya clearly won, even though he lost the last three rounds. But after watching it a second time, a few years later, I found it a very close fight. From the second round on, De La Hoya ran away from Trinidad, only stopping every 30 seconds to throw a few jabs or a flurry that usually missed. Trinidad didn't look spectacular either, but at least he pressed the fight. I scored it a draw, 114-114, and am no longer upset that Trinidad got the decision. He came to fight; De La Hoya did not.

JEREMY GUERRIERI
Concord, OH



Howard Eastman, The Ring's number-one middleweight contender, penetrates Christophe Tendil's guard with a right hand en route to a fourth-round TKO victory. Reader Felix Fontenot is perturbed that Oscar De La Hoya, who has only fought once at middleweight, is getting a title shot against Bernard Hopkins before Eastman.

DID ARCHIE TAKE A DIVE?

I recently read the Sonny Liston biography *Night Train* by Nick Tosches. In the book there is a claim that the 1955 world heavyweight title fight between Rocky Marciano and Archie Moore was fixed. I was stunned because Rocky is one of my all-time heroes, and I have never before come

across any suggestion that this fight was a fake. I have watched the fight many times and it sure doesn't look fixed to me. I would like to know the opinion of THE RING editors on whether this claim has any truth to it.

MARK LAW
London, England

[Editor's note: Rumors that the Marciano-Moore fight was fixed have been circulating for years, but we've never seen any evidence whatsoever, and it's highly unlikely that any fighter going into the tank would have first absorbed the beating Moore did against Marciano.]

PHOTO BY RAMON CAIRO

Two-time former WBA 140-pound titleholder Juan Coggi wraps his son's hands prior to an amateur bout. THE RING's Argentina correspondent, Carlos Irusta, writes to tell readers that, just like in America, the sons and daughters of famous Argentine fighters are also following in their fathers' footsteps.

ANOTHER OUTRAGE

I just finished watching Courtney Burton get socked in the face for 10 straight rounds by the very talented Emanuel Augustus on ESPN2's *Tuesday Night Fights*, and then I watched the judges give Burton a hometown decision. It was outrageous! Who is Burton's promoter? Satan?

Just because Augustus dances a little and makes the crowd laugh is no reason to take rounds away from him. Those "low blows" that referee Dan Kelley called were clean bodyshots. Augustus spinning Burton around was just getting out of Burton's attempt to hold him. But the point Augustus lost wouldn't have made any difference since one of the judges still would have scored the fight 99-91! It was disgusting.

Teddy Atlas has been angry on *Friday* and *Tuesday Night Fights* before, but I've never seen him this pissed. Even Joe Tessitore was screaming at the Michigan officials. I can take Oscar De La Hoya getting a close decision over Felix Sturm, and I can even take Cory Spinks running away from Ricardo Mayorga for 12 rounds. But I can't take this. Emanuel Augustus won eight of the 10 rounds. But I guess that's not enough when you're in Michigan going up against a Michigan fighter.

RORY DOWD
San Diego, CA

PROTECTED PAVLIK?

I think that it is about time to start giving some well-deserved credit to middleweight prospect from Youngstown, Ohio, Kelly Pavlik. After watching him simply overpower his opponent in a homecoming bout on July 2, I think he should be ranked in the top 10. Give Pavlik the credit he deserves rather than labeling him the "most protected" fighter in the middleweight division, which is the only ink you've given him.

KENNY DUTTON JR.
Youngstown, OH

[Editor's note: Pedro Ortega, the opponent Pavlik beat on July 2, had lost eight of his last nine bouts going into the match.]

MORE CHIPS OFF THE OLD BLOCK

After reading Don Stradley's article ("Kid Gloves: A Look At The Second Generation Phenomenon") in the September 2004 issue of THE RING EXTRA, I wanted to tell readers that the same sort of thing is normal in Argentina, too. Former WBA junior welterweight titleholder Juan Martin Coggi now manages his son, Juan Martin Jr., who has had 15 amateur fights as a welterweight. Also, junior lightweight contender Jorge "La Hiena" Barrios, who gave Acelino Freitas such a tough fight, was originally managed by his father, a former boxer and a referee. Moreover, Horacio Saldano, who challenged Jose Napoles for the welterweight title in 1974, has two daughters, Poldy and Caroline, who are currently amateur boxers.

CARLOS IRUSTA
Buenos Aires, Argentina

LIFE LESSON

I was never a boxer, but my dad was once featherweight champ of New England and the U.S. Fleet, and also subscribed to THE RING. Back around 1935, I read an article about a bout Joe Jeannette fought in Paris, France, against Sam McVey. The article said Jeannette was knocked down 19 times in the first two rounds, but went on to win a 50-round fight.

When Dad came home from work, I mentioned the article. Dad told me to get in the car, and he drove me to another part of New Jersey, where he introduced me to a large black man, saying, "Son, this is the great Joe Jeannette. Joe proved it doesn't make any difference how many times you go down as long as you have the guts to get up."

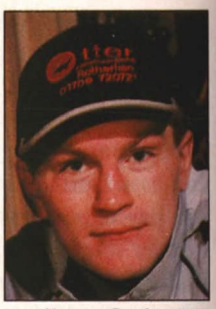
GEORGE RICHARDS
Tampa, FL

[Editor's note: All told, Jeannette was down 27 times, McVey seven, before their April 17, 1909, fight was stopped in Jeannette's favor.] ■

LOOKING AHEAD

By Eric Raskin

PUTTING THE "MAN" IN "HITMAN"



Hatton: Real test against Harris

You think you're tired of waiting for **Ricky Hatton** to face a truly dangerous opponent? Nobody was more tired of waiting than Hatton himself. And nobody was more excited to hear that Hatton would be facing **Vivian Harris** than "The Hitman."

"This is what I need to take me to the next level," Hatton said in late-July, just a few days after the fight was signed for the MEN Arena in Hatton's hometown of Manchester, England. "Harris is a real champion (he holds the WBA super lightweight belt), and I want to take his title from him in front of the Manchester fans. I've always said I needed a proper test to bring out the best in me, and I aim to show that I'm the top man in the division. I don't plan to have a long career in boxing, and I want to face the best now."

If the 25-year-old Hatton really wants to face the best, that's still world champion **Kostya Tszyu**, but Harris isn't far behind. The 26-year-old has beaten the likes of **Diobelys Hurtado** and **Oktay Urkal** and is ranked directly above Hatton in THE RING's ratings. In other words, it's a perfect middle range between the fringe contenders Hatton's built his pristine record against and the elite likes of Tszyu, **Sharmba Mitchell**, and **Floyd Mayweather**. Hatton may be salivating over the target Harris' long, lean frame provides for his trademark bodyblows, but he'll also have his hands full fending off Harris' sudden, powerful strikes in what looks like a 50-50 matchup.

Although early reports stated that the fight would fill Showtime's October 2 date, those reports were a bit premature. As of our press deadline, Showtime was also considering a doubleheader featuring **Kassim Ouma**-**Verno Phillips** II and the return of **Wladimir Klitschko**, possibly against **Lance Whitaker**, for the October date. **Richard Maynard**, publicist for Hatton's promoter, Sports Network, assured THE RING that Hatton-Harris is signed and will definitely happen in the fall, but the exact date and U.S.-television status remained undetermined as we went to press.

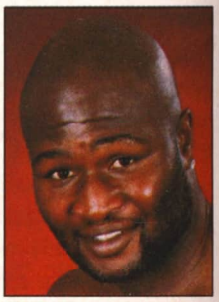
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STORY

Last issue, we gave you **Jean-Marc Mormeck's** perspective on the RING cruiserweight championship fight coming up on October 2. Now, it's **Wayne Braithwaite's** turn, and he's showing a little bit more respect toward Mormeck than the Frenchman showed him.

"I think he's very dangerous. I'm not taking him for granted," Braithwaite told THE RING. "I believe I'm the best, and nobody's beating me, but this is my biggest fight and Mormeck's going to bring a whole lot. I guarantee you'll get a good fight."

Braithwaite said he's "honored" to be fighting for the vacant RING title. If he captures it, however, don't expect a long reign. The Brooklyn-based Guyanan intends to defend against **Kelvin Davis**, and then, in the tradition of all top cruisers, move up to heavyweight.

LISTEN UP



Toney: Booked comeback bout with Booker

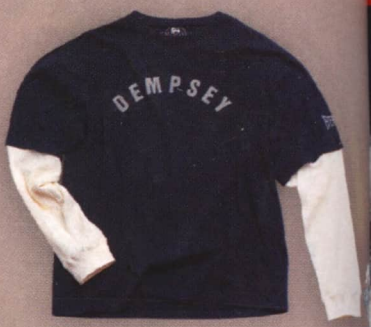
After what will have been a nearly eight-month break between fights, world heavyweight champion **Vitali Klitschko** is looking to make his first title defense on either December 4 or December 11. As of press time, the leading candidate to challenge him appeared to be **Monte Barrett** … **James Toney's** ring return will come on September 23, in a Fox Sports Net bout against **Rydell Booker**. You may recall Booker as the flabby cruiserweight from Detroit's "Team Cannon" who outpointed **Arthur Williams** on ESPN2 in June '03. Don't let Booker's undefeated record fool you; this is an easy tuneup for a properly prepared Toney … A moderately interesting welterweight fight between **Thomas Damgaard** and **Jose Antonio Rivera** has been added to the pay-per-view undercard of the October 2 **Felix Trinidad**-**Ricardo Mayorga** show … Middleweight prospect **Jermain Taylor** will probably fight on HBO again in November or early-December. Team Taylor was considering **William Joppy**, a good name but probably a shopworn fighter, for that next baby step forward … It may not be an action lover's dream, but it would be a significant heavyweight fight nonetheless: **Don King** is thinking of pairing **John Ruiz** and **Andrew Golota** on another one of his marathon PPV shows in the fall. ■

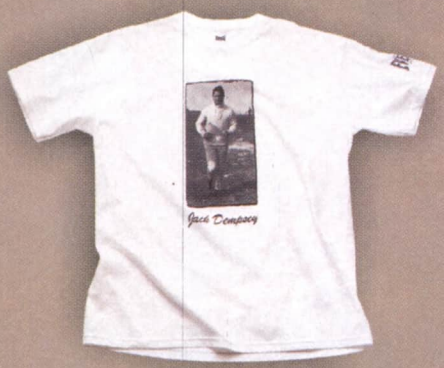
TITLE
BOXING

BOXING EQUIPMENT
EVERLAST®
EST. 1910
BRONX, NEW YORK

www.everlastboxing.com
Your Direct Source For Everlast

Call 1-800-999-1213 for a free catalog
or visit our website at www.titleboxing.com





EVERLAST
★
HERITAGE

www.everlast.com

©/™ 2004 Jack Dempsey, Rocky Marciano, Floyd Patterson, Joe Louis, Ray Robinson Properties & Licensing by CMG Worldwide. www.CMGWorldwide.com